Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 163 | WEDNESDAY JUNE 11, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

General discussion on federalization with DOI. PAGE 1

'Miura also solicited 3 men to commit murder' PAGE 3

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

New iPhone

The iPhone will soon be $200 cheaper and support satellite navigation and faster Internet access.

BUSINESS...Page 14

New Baby

Add "baby guru" to Jessica Alba's resume.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The new prices of gasoline are displayed at a Mobil gas station on Middle Road Garapan yesterday.

Mobil gasoline prices soar by at least 18 cents

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Amid predictions global oil prices could skyrocket to $150 per barrel, Mobil gas stations in the Commonwealth hiked prices once again in a move that is sure to place added strain on local drivers.

A survey of Mobil stations on Saipan revealed prices rose to $4.80 per gallon for regular and $4.95 for premium gas on Tuesday, a spike of 18 cents, and to $5.67 per gallon for diesel, up 21 cents.

On Tinian, a Mobil station reported a similar increase with prices rising to $5.31 for regular fuel, above the previ-

See MOBIL on Page 4

NEW MOBIL PRICES

SELF-SERVICE	
■ Regular	$4.80
■ Premium	$4.95
FULL-SERVICE	
■ Regular	$4.939
■ Premium	$5.079
■ Diesel	$5.679

Bottled water prices jump

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Prices for bottled water on Saipan are going up, the latest sign of the toll rising utility costs, gas prices and the recent minimum wage hike are taking on local businesses.

The Saipan Ice and Water Company on June 1 raised the price of its 5 gallon water jugs by 25 cents, or 5 cents per gallon, the first time the company has increased its prices in years, according to owner Anthony Pelligrino.

Meanwhile, one of Pelligrino's local competitors, Star Water, is poised to

See BOTTLED on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A police officer investigates the collision involving a Kia truck, a Mazda Protégé and a Nissan Frontier pickup near Taibwo St. along Beach Road Garapan yesterday. Inset, the heavily damaged red Mazda Protégé is seen crashed on the sidewalk. Third picture shows bystanders looking at a Hyundai Tucson and a pickup truck that collided along Middle Road in front of Sugar King Park intersection in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

5 hurt in 3-vehicle collision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five persons were hurt, including two women who were seriously injured, during a three-vehicle collision that resulted in a van flipping to its side along Beach Road, Garapan yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, two vehicles also collided at the accident-prone Middle Road-Sugar King Park intersection yesterday afternoon. No one was reported seriously injured.

The two women were immediately brought to the Commonwealth Health Center. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told S*aipan Tribune* late afternoon yesterday that she was still waiting for an update on

See 5 HURT on Page 4

Local

General discussion on federalization with DOI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and a visiting group of federal officials only briefly touched on immigration "federalization" during their meeting yesterday.

Doug Domenech, the Department of the Interior's acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, said the U.S. government's nearing takeover of local immigration was discussed "in a very general way."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

From left, Doug Domenech, deputy chief of staff for Interior Secretary Kempthorne and acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs answer questions from the media during yesterday's press conference at the Governor's office room on Capital Hill.

The Interior Department is one of the five federal agencies tasked with drafting the regulations for implementing the Commonwealth's new immigration law. The four other agencies are the U.S. departments of Homeland Security, Labor, and Justice, and the State Department.

As Washington's point person for its relationships with the insular areas, Domenech will play a crucial role in writing the regulations.

In a press conference yesterday, Domenech said there had been preliminary discussions about federalization. He added that officials of the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labor will visit the islands next month to meet with local leaders about the regulations.

"For the most part, the Department of Homeland Security is the lead agency. So we're kind of waiting for them to take the first step," he said.

Nikolao Pula, the director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, said that coordinating things among the five agencies "is not as easy as we want it to be."

He added, however, that the Interior Department has been active in communicating Guam and the CNMI's interest in making sure the joint visa waiver program works in the favor of both destinations' tourism industries.

"Be assured that federal officials are going to come here and explain what they are going to be doing. It's not like the federal government is going to come down and take over everything. There's going to be some discussions with the folks here, and agreements will be made in terms of the [regulations] that are going to be written," Pula said.

But the Fitial administration does not seem quite ready to call off its fight against federalization.

The governor told the media yesterday he is still consulting with lawmakers, businesses, and other groups on the three options he outlined in his State of the Commonwealth Address last month. The options are to sue the U.S. government, help draft the regulations, or lobby the U.S. Congress to amend the recently approved immigration measure.

"A lawsuit does not have to be confrontational. We can litigate to negotiate," he said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Foreign workers of different nationalities display placards during a rally at the American Memorial Park yesterday to welcome visiting federal officials to the island.

50 alien workers fail to see visiting feds at AMP rally

About 50 alien workers staged a welcome rally for the visiting federal officials at the American Memorial Park yesterday.

The workers, who were planning to hold the rally until 8pm, decided to disperse at 5:30pm when they failed to meet with deputy assistant secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula.

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio said they were informed that Domenech and Pula were not at Hyatt Regency Saipan that time as the two officials went straight to the airport.

Custodio said they were still happy because he and Bangladeshi taxi drivers association president Rabby F. Syed, along with some of their officials, were able to hand to a member of the visiting team their petition for improved immigration status and some documents about workers' uncollected wages and damages from previous employers.

The workers, all of different nationalities, converged at 10am near the entrance of Hyatt. They displayed a streamer that read "Improved Immigration Status For Long-Term Alien Residents" and "Fairness For All. Aliens + Citizens=Community."

Other streamer carried messages such as "Human Rights= Prosperity", "Equality of Rights Benefits 4 all Workers" and " Liberate Workers 4 Strong Economy."

Educator Ron Hodges and Coalition of United Workers (NMI) president Irene Tantiado dropped by for a few minutes to show support.

The federal officials are here for initial talks on the U.S. government's takeover of local immigration control. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Miura also solicited 3 men to commit murder'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura reportedly approached three people to commit murder prior to the shooting of his wife on Nov. 18, 1981 in Los Angeles, according to a Los Angeles Police District detective.

L.A.P.D. detective Rick Jackson disclosed in an affidavit that Miura asked Koji Fukuhara, a sushi chef; Kiyoyuki Mizukami, a former employee of Miura's company; and Richard Molin, an antique shop owner, to kill someone.

Jackson's affidavit was among the documents the Attorney General's Office had submitted in the Superior Court to oppose granting Miura bail.

The detective said the three were in addition to Miura's former girlfriend, Michiko Yazawa, who had confessed that Miura instructed her to kill his wife, Kazumi, by hitting her on the head with a hammer at the New Otani Hotel in L.A.

Yazawa was subsequently sentenced to two and one half years in prison in Japan for the attempted murder.

Before Miura approached Fukuhara, Mizukami, and Molin, the Japanese businessman took out three separate life insurance policies on his wife, Kazumi, and made himself the beneficiary, Jackson said.

The detective said Miura was a frequent customer of a Japanese restaurant in the Japanese Village Plaza where he met the sushi chef, Fukuhara.

Fukuhara envied Miura since the latter appeared to be a successful businessman.

Jackson said that, in the early part of March 1981, Fukuhara received a telephone call from Miura, who was staying at the City Center Hotel on 7th Street. Miura asked Fukuhara to come to the hotel after work to discuss some very important matters.

Expecting to hear some business opportunities, the chef was surprised when Miura allegedly solicited him to commit murder.

Miura bluntly asked Fukuhara if he had ever killed a person and said that murder is not bad so long as the killer is not arrested and convicted for it, Jackson said.

Miura allegedly boasted of having acquaintances in the Yakuza and participating in various criminal acts where he would split the proceeds of the crime.

Jackson said Fukuhara recalled that Miura also stated he saw a person get killed and buried in the desert.

In April 1981, Jackson said, Miura relayed a fabricated story to Mizukami, an employee of the businessman's Fulham Road Company.

The detective said Miura told Mizukami that he had hired a private detective agency to investigate a possible leak of confidential business information to a rival company.

Miura stated that the investigation revealed that it was his wife, Kazumi, who was leaking the confidential information to the president of the rival company.

Jackson said Miura claimed that his wife was having an affair with the president of the rival company.

Miura allegedly asked Mizukami if he would do anything for money. Mizukami was uncertain about Miura's meaning so he asked for some time to consider it.

About a month later, Jackson said, Miura summoned Mizukami to a hotel and asked if he could tamper with the brakes in his car to cause a fatal accident for Kazumi, who would be driving it. Miura promised to pay 2 million yen if Mizukami agrees to do the job, but he rejected the offer.

In April 1982, Jackson said, Miura ordered Mizukami to go to L.A. to attend to some company business for one week. Miura was also to join him toward the end of the stay.

Mizukami felt apprehensive about the trip because he refused to participate in Miura's plan to kill Kazumi, according to the detective.

By this time, Jackson said, all of the employees of Fulham suspected Miura of setting up the shooting of his wife on Nov. 18, 1981. The employees warned Mizukami to be very careful.

Prior to his departure, Mizukami wrote five letters where he stated that Miura had solicited him to tamper with the brakes of Kazumi's car to kill her.

If Mizukami fails to return to Japan, the five persons to whom he addressed the letter should regard his disappearance as Miura's retribution for refusing to carry out the murder plot.

Jackson said that Mizukami returned from L.A. safely so he instructed the person to whom he entrusted the five letters to destroy them.

With respect to Molin, the latter owned an antique shop on Beverly Boulevard and Miura visited him when he went to L.A.

Molin's girlfriend would take Miura to various places to purchase merchandise, which the businessman would resell in Japan. Miura also allegedly visited the antique shop to buy marijuana.

Jackson said Molin also delivered marijuana to Miura at the City Center Motel where Miura usually stays when he goes to L.A.

One day, the detective said, Miura asked Molin if he knew how to use a gun. Molin said he was an ex-Marine and was familiar with guns. Miura then allegedly asked if Molin could take care of someone and that there would be a lot of money involved.

When Molin realized that Miura was seriously soliciting him to kill someone, he reportedly became scared and told him he could not do such a thing.

Jackson said Molin only recalled that the last solicitation took place about six months prior to the Nov. 18 shooting of Kazumi.

The detective said that, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department's investigation into the financial condition of Fulham, Miura was having severe financial problems in 1981.

The problems, TMPD said, required him to obtain a bank loan to keep his company afloat.

Jackson also revealed in the same affidavit that an unidentified woman who was found dead in a vacant field in Lake View Terrace in 1979 has been identified by the L.A.P.D. as Miura's missing girlfriend, Chizuko Shiraishi.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 for the murder of Kazumi. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Saipan authorities arrested the 60-year-old Miura at the Saipan International Airport last Feb. 21 in connection with the 1981 murder of Kazumi. He has been in detention since his arrest and is fighting his extradition to L.A.

Save Gas
Shop Smart!
Driving Store to Store Looking For What You Need?
Save Gas... Find out who has it 1st, Online!
SaipanOnTheNet.com
Let Your Mouse Do The Driving!

Woman in fake marriage gets two years probation

A woman who engaged in a fake marriage in order for a Bangladeshi national to obtain an Immediate Relative status was sentenced in federal court yesterday to two years of probation.

During the probation period, Rose Mayo Omar Reyes shall complete 100 hours of community work service.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed many conditions on Reyes, such as not committing another federal or local crime and refraining from the use of any alcoholic beverages.

He ordered Reyes to immediately pay a $10 special assessment fee to the U.S. government.

In March 2008, the 24-year-old Reyes pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an attempted illegal entry into the U.S.

Reyes pleaded guilty in connection with Mohamad Ruhul Amin's "attempt to enter the U.S. by use of a willfully false or misleading representation or by the willful concealment of a material fact."

According to the plea agreement, on Aug. 23, 2007, Reyes "knowingly and willingly aided and abetted Amin's attempted entry into the U.S."

In furtherance of the scheme, Reyes filed an application for a U.S. passport (Form DS-11) in the District of the NMI and Honolulu, Hawaii, knowing that the said application contained false or fraudulent information.

Last January, Amin was charged in federal court with conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States, false statement in application for a passport, and subornation of perjury.

The indictment stated that on May 9, 2007, Amin married Reyes, a U.S. citizen.

The purpose of the marriage was to enable Amin to obtain IR status under the CNMI immigration laws.

In exchange for the marriage, the defendant allegedly provided Reyes with money and gifts worth several hundred dollars.

The prosecution said the two never lived and never intended to live together as husband and wife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fitial cites improved relations with Interior

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said his administration is now enjoying a good relationship with the Department of the Interior.

Doug Domenech, the Interior Department's acting deputy assistant for insular affairs, led a team of federal officials on a two-day visit to the Commonwealth earlier this week.

In a press conference yesterday, the Interior Department officials announced the approval of a $50,000 grant for the CNMI's economic study. This is in addition to the $75,000 that the agency previously released for the project.

The officials also approved the local government's request for the reprogramming of some $5.8 million in federal grants mainly for the repair of Saipan's main power plant.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs gestures as he talks to Doug Domenech, deputy chief of staff for Interior Secretary Kempthorne and acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, during yesterday's press conference at the Governor's office on Capital Hill.

"I never had this kind of support [from the Interior Department] before," Fitial said, in an obvious swipe at Domenech's predecessor, David Cohen, with whom the governor had a rocky relationship. Fitial and Cohen had argued over issues such as immigration federalization, the appointment of James Benedetto as federal labor ombudsman in the Commonwealth, and the terms and conditions set for a federal labor grant.

Fitial said that DOI's U.S. Office of Insular Affairs has recently been "not only very sensitive, but also supportive of the funding requests I have submitted to [the federal] office."

"I'm very happy with the support coming from the Department of the Interior in terms of coming to our aid. I could not have asked for anything more," he added.

Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs, Tim Petty, DOI deputy assistant secretary for water and science, Tom Murray, senior research scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey, and Larry Broun, emergency coordinator at DOI, came with Domenech.

"This is my first trip, so this is mostly a listening session for me," said Domenech.

The two main goals of his visit, he said, is to get information on the planned military buildup in the Marianas, and to see how the federal government can help in addressing energy problems in the islands.

He said the team's visit to Pagan on Monday was "very enlightening" in that it revealed possibilities of using the volcanic island as a power source for Saipan.

The Interior Department has recently approved a $220,000 grant for a feasibility study on the proposed geothermal power plant on Pagan.

"There's still a lot of unanswered questions, and what we're trying to do is start the conversation," Domenech said.

The group also received a briefing on the power situation, toured the Commonwealth Health Center, and met with local emergency management officials.

Lagoon spa opens amid boost in tourism

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A recent boost in foreign tourism has given a local businessman and former specialist in Chinese medicine the incentive he needed to open a new spa on Saipan, the Lagoon Spa, which promises to bring relaxation to island residents as well.

Perched on the eighth floor of the Hafa Adai Hotel's Crystal Tower in a spacious suite, the Lagoon Spa, which held its grand opening Sunday, is a peaceful hideaway from the streets of Garapan. The air inside is scented with sandalwood; potted orchids grow in the entryway and the staff is attentive and welcoming.

To open the spa—a roughly $100,000 endeavor—has long been a plan for its founder, who says he began developing the idea several years ago but had to wait for the right timing.

"Right now, we're seeing that Japanese tourism is going up and that's encouraging us," said Zhiming Liu, president of Dynamic Salon—an already popular Saipan spa—and founder of Lagoon Spa.

With hot stone massages, sunburn care, algae body wraps and deep facial cleansing treatments, among only a few of its offerings, the Lagoon spa appears an ideal element for any tourist vacation. Yet the spa is more than a tourist activity, Liu said, noting it will soon offer a 20 percent discount to local residents on all prices.

Liu, a former physical therapist and doctor of Chinese medicine, said the discount for locals is key for his business. At the Dynamic Salon, he noted, repeat customers from the local population account for roughly 65 to 70 percent of his business.

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Staff at the newly opened Lagoon Spa in Garapan.

And business is already booming, according to Liu, with new clients arriving every day and many more expected in the coming weeks.

Japanese tourism already accounts for a good portion of the Dynamic Salon's clientele as well, and Liu hopes the new spa's location within the hotel will draw many Japanese vistors. The Dynamic Salon, he noted, is already a recognized name among Japanese who visit Saipan.

"People trust the name and they trust the service," Liu said, adding that his predominately Chinese staff all speak some Japanese in order to communicate with clients.

In addition to the array of treatments and massages the spa provides, Liu said it will soon offer herbal formula baths. Prices at the spa run from $50 for a shiatsu massage to $318 for full course of treatments like a facial, body scrub and body wrap.

Ayuyu is guest speaker in upcoming SHRM meeting

Jose C. Ayuyu, president and owner of McDonald's on Saipan, will be the featured speaker during the upcoming membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management.

During the meeting, scheduled on June 19, 2008, at the Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Ayuyu will speak about the *Simple Truths of Business Success* and the importance of a company's greatest assets, its human resources.

The Society will also be announcing the recipients of the 2008 CNMI Chapter Scholarship.

Members and guests are asked to bring their business card to this meeting to qualify to enter the raffle drawing. The Society will be raffling away some great prizes during this meeting.

Doors open at 11:15am for registration. Cost for Members is $15 and $20 for non-SHRM Members (government purchase orders are accepted). Cost includes lunch. Reservations are requested. Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact the Denise Montenegro, HR Department, Hyatt Regency at phone number 234-1234, Frannie T. Salas at e-mail francestsalas@gmail.com, or Polly Deleon Guerrero at e-mail pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

BOTTLED

From Page 1

boost the price of water delivery by 50 cents for some customers.

Pelligrino attributed the price jump primarily to the high cost of electricity on Saipan, saying recent rate changes have meant $30,000 electric bills. Surging gas prices are also costing his company thousands, yet the spike in the local minimum wage earlier this month is also taking a heavy toll.

"It's all those factors put together," Pelligrino said. "We haven't had to do a price increase in many years."

At Star Water, manager Ronny Bunao reported similar problems.

"Everything is up," he said, noting that rising gas prices in particular have placed a heavy cost on delivering water to customers. "The economic situation on Saipan has made things very difficult."

Bunao said that Star Water is preparing to raise the cost of its deliveries later this month, though the price could largely depend on the distance of the customer. Now at $2 for many deliveries, this price could raise to $2.50.

For the moment, however, Bunao said the company's prices remain the same.

5 HURT

From Page 1

the condition of the two women.

Allan Baltazar Vila, 34, and Mike Sablan, 37, both employees of 99 Cents Department Store, suffered bruises in the arms and legs. They were also taken to CHC.

An 18-year-old male, the son of former Tinian senator Joaquin Adriano, suffered a minor scratch on his left arm.

The teenager told *Saipan Tribune* that he was driving south aboard a Nissan Frontier pickup truck when the red Mazda Protégé car he was following suddenly stopped to turn on Taibwo Street.

The teenager's truck ended up striking the back bumper of the Mazda Protégé.

"The red car should have stopped in the center lane!" said the teenager. The former senator was the teen's passenger but he was not hurt.

Saipan Tribune learned from witnesses that when the pickup truck hit the Protege, the Protégé was pushed into the northbound lane where it collided with the northbound KIA van.

The van ended up flipping and resting on its left side near the shoulder of the road in front of the 777 Store. The driver, Vila, and his passenger, Sablan, crawled out of the van and sat on the grass.

The Protégé swerved to the shoulder of the northbound lane and stopped before hitting some *tangan-tangan* trees. The female driver was bloodied and appeared unconscious. Her female passenger was also injured.

Responding medics, with the assistance of some motorists, pulled the two women from the car, which sustained extensive damage to the back bumper and right side.

The pickup truck had minor damage to the front bumper. The van had extensive damage to the front bumper and its windshield was shattered.

DPS is expected to release today a report of the accident.

MOBIL

From Page 1

ous $5.13 price, and $5.97 for diesel, a 20-cent jump. However, a Mobil station on Rota reported it had yet to receive any word of an increase.

The price adjustment took effect at 2pm yesterday.

The price hike appears for the moment confined to Mobil gas stations, with Shell stations reporting no change in prices as of press time. The increase comes after rumors last week of climbing gas prices triggered panic buying among many consumers and long lines at some stations.

Representatives for Mobil did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the increase. A source with Shell had no report of a price spike.

Gas prices have risen nationwide this week above the current $4 average, due in part to speculation last week by the investment firm Morgan that oil prices could reach $150 per barrel, a prediction that drove the price to a record high of $139.

The national average price of a gallon of regular gas jumped 1.8 cents this week to a record $4.023, according to AAA. Prices climbed over $4 nationally on Sunday, though they are higher in many parts of the country.

Calvo joins race for delegate seat in Congress

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local businessman is the latest to join the delegate race.

Patrick M. Calvo said he will run for the U.S. Congress as an independent candidate. This is his first time to run for elected office.

Calvo is the owner of Calvo's Nursery and Landscaping and Island Farmers Market. He is also the current president of the Saipan Rotary Club.

He said he decided to seek the federal post after receiving a considerable amount of support and encouragement from family, friends, and associates on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Calvo

"We're in a critical juncture in our development [as a Commonwealth]. And I think I have the skills, qualifications, and experience necessary to take a fresh look at the challenges we're facing as a community," Calvo said.

His campaign, he added, will focus on "establishing hope in the future … on looking at where we could be, rather where we are."

He said he consider it his advantage to have close links to the people on all of the three main islands in the Commonwealth. His family is originally from Rota, he grew up and spent most of his life on Saipan, and he has business interests on Tinian.

"I don't come from just one island. I am from the Commonwealth. I have intimate experience with the struggles of our people. I think that quality that I have will resonate in the policies that I will carry as the CNMI's representative in Washington," Calvo said.

Calvo's career began at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, where he worked for five years first as training manager and then as human resource manager. After that, he started his agriculture business.

He has been active in various community efforts. He has led a labor training agency that is the precursor of the Workforce Investment Agency. He has served as chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation District, with the Kagman watershed project coming into fruition during his leadership.

Calvo will face six at least six other candidates: Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, Rep. Ray N. Yumul, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, and Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in Saturday's American Hiking Society's National Trails Day.

20 take part in National Trails Day

At least 20 people from the CNMI participated in Saturday's American Hiking Society's National Trails Day—a nationwide hiking event which aims to develop more appreciation for the island's hiking tails.

Two groups were formed to take two separate routes.

Ken Kramer led a group through the Laderan Tanke Trail across the Pau Pau Beach area. According to Kramer, "The return to the real trail was probably the hardest part of the hike. Halfway through, everyone opted for the Bird Island Lookout finish, which proved to be the more spectacular finish."

Jim Benedetto, who led the second group that took the trail to the Bird Island lookout, said it was surprising that none of the youngsters in the group had ever been on the Laderan Tangke Trail.

"I think we should make this a regular event, and encourage more people to get out and see the wild beauty of the Marianas," Benedetto said.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chairwoman Lynn Knight also participated in the nature hike. She said her group started up the Radar Station in Marpi and ended down at the Bird Island lookout.

"It was beautiful going through the dense jungle, mostly downhill. I can still feel the effects of using different muscles, so I know it was a great exercise," Knight said.

In the end, Kramer and a fellow hiker met with the rest of the hikers at the Bird Island lookout and gave them rides back to the Laderan Tangke trailhead.

"It was a good hike. Next time, we can do the Banaderu Trail," Kramer said.

The hike took about two hours in all. ***(Rinnae Pangelinan-Brown)***

Own A Business?
Hungry buyers are looking for your products or services online. Will they find you or your competition?
SaipanOnTheNet.com
Take Your Business Further!

FOR SALE
BIG 2-DOOR CHILLER - PERFECT $950
POINT OF SALE DISPLAY CHILLER $500
SPLIT AIRCON - INSTALLED $390
Tel.: 287-0687

On Father's Day, think well of the man who always thinks of you...
June 15, 2008
The Magellan
Father's Day Brunch at The Magellan
11am to 2pm
$25.00 Adult*
$12.50 Child (4 to 11)
*Local resident discount applies.
Brunch & Waterpark
$30.00 Adult
$25.00 Child (4 to 11)
Fathers dining for Brunch get a chance to win a Video Cam among other great prizes in a special raffle draw!
Seaside Grill
Steak & Lobster Night at Seaside Grill
A hearty five dinner course that would surely satisfy every Dad's appetite.
6pm to 9:30pm
$65 per person*
*Local resident discount applies.
Miller Lite
PEPSI
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
Celebrate the special father figure in your life at PIC.
Reservations recommended. Call 234-7976 ext. 5170 or 5172.

New law says FAS citizens could be deported

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill clarifying that citizens of the "freely associated states" could be deported when they commit crimes in the Commonwealth.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, updates the definition of "alien" to consider the dissolution of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Before it was amended, the law defined the term "alien" as someone who is not a U.S. citizen or national, not a citizen of the Trust Territory or the Northern Marianas, or not a permanent citizen of the Commonwealth.

The Legislature said the current definition of the term was "ambiguous because of references to the Trust Territory, and [had] resulted in time-consuming litigation." The Legislature added that the amendment was needed to bring the law consistent with the current state of political affairs.

The newly signed legislation reflects the CNMI Supreme Court's recent ruling in the case of a man from Yap, who had argued he could not be deported based on the language of the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act.

Douglas Amaichy Phillip, the respondent in the deportation case, said he could not be deported because he is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, a former entity of the now dissolved Trust Territory.

In an opinion, the High Court said that because the Trust Territory no longer exits, its residents, including those of the FSM, now qualify as aliens in deportation matters.

"In addition, federal immigration law only grants [Micronesian] nationals certain entry privileges and applies all other immigration laws to them," the Supreme Court said.

"The Commonwealth has always embraced its Micronesian brothers and sisters when they come here for work and educational purposes. However, the [U.S. government's compacts of free association with the Micronesian states] was not intended to harm the territories and commonwealths, and there is no reason to believe that the Commonwealth Legislature [which had left the definition of 'alien' untouched in the local statutes] wishes to cause such harm either," the court added.

A show of billboard love for David Borja

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several staff from the Public School System got together and showed their appreciation for Education Commissioner Dr. David Borja via a billboard sign at the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The group came up with the billboard after news got out that the Board of Education had asked Borja to either resign or be fired.

Sharleen Crisostimo, a teacher at the Hopwood Junior High School and CNMI Teen Talk adviser, said she felt really sad when the BOE decided to let Borja go.

Crisostimo has been a teacher for eight years and is the chair of various departments in the school. She was named HJHS Teacher of the Year twice and was twice recognized in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

"I am many things because I have been inspired by a great commissioner," Crisostimo said.

According to her, Borja was her first school principal. "He came in after a chaotic year (1999-2000). The community labeled my school as an unsafe school that was not conducive for learning. Dr. Borja stepped up and took over a school that many gave up on."

Borja

She described him as a risk taker who led his teachers with zeal. "He spoke of the paradigm shift in what teachers are teaching to being student centered. Immediately, all the negativity I heard disappeared."

As a deputy commissioner and commissioner, Crisostimo said Borja was very visible and active.

"He visits school classrooms, walks around the campus, eats with students. My students in school and in Teen Talk know him. Parents know him. He attends learning community meetings, parent workshops, teacher workshops, and student workshops. At these student-centered activities, he doesn't ask for acknowledgement. In fact, he observes, takes notes and shares his thoughts and words of encouragement. He is enthusiastic and optimistic when he talks about our kids," said Crisostimo.

Last week, the BOE requested Borja to resign as the COE. Borja said he was about ready to retire anyway and has expressed interest in being a teacher again.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

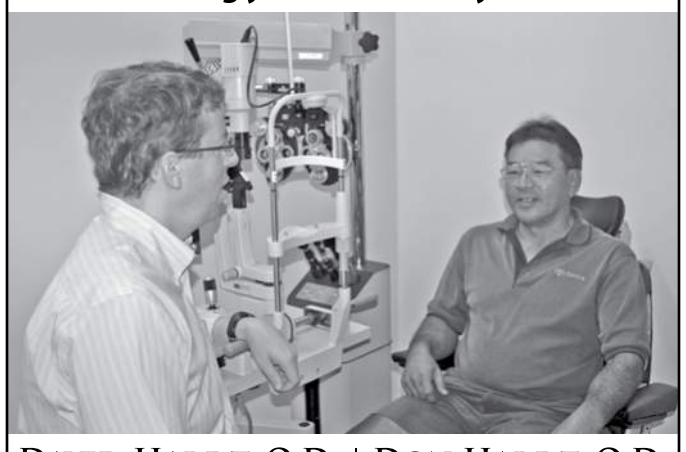
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSITION	LOCATION	JVA NO.	
Laboratory Specialist	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-017	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/13/08
Laboratory Technician	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-018	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/24/08

For detailed information on the duties and responsibilities and the minimum qualifications, please visit the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Room 13.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

HARDT EYE CLINIC
Serving you for over 15 years



DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

SERVICES OFFERED:
• New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
• Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
• Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
• Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.

Walk-ins are Welcome!

We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare. Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)

We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express

Please call us now at 235-2030

We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-5498
Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web site: www.nmcnet.edu

Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Thursday, June 12, 2008
3:30pm

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
A. Roll Call

II. **Public Comments/ Miscellaneous**

III. **Old Business**
A. WASC Accreditation Update
B. BOR Assessment

IV. **New Business**
A. BOR Meeting Schedule
B. BOR Meetings Via VTC & other modes

V. **Executive Session**
A. Legal Matters
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

VI. **Adjournment**

/s/ **Charles V. Cepeda** — **June 12, 2008**
Acting Chairperson, Board of Regents — Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Retirement Fund Building, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
II. **Public Comments**
III. **Reports**
a. Chair
b. Non-Public School Representative
c. Commissioner's report
IV. **Executive Session**
V. **Old Business**
a. Allocation of PD funds
VI. **New Business**
a. Selection criteria and announcement of COE position
b. Adoption of Head Start regulations re: Certification and Compensation
c. Approval of NASBE Professional Development Funds
d. BOE employees' contract terms
e. BOE Bylaws Revisions
VII. **Miscellaneous Matters**
a. Professional Development proposal from Dr. Pascarelli
VIII. **Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

DPL terminates two public land leases

The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands has terminated land leases for MDC on Tinian and KSA Corporation on Saipan for breach of their respective agreements.

Each lease contains substantive performance provisions that must be met by lessees. Both companies, however, have failed to fulfill them, according to DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario, Jr.

The submissions include a business plan detailing the company's recovery proposal, source of funds to finance the project, an architectural engineer's rendering of the proposed project, among others.

MDC's plan included the construction of a hotel, golf course, retirement village, agriculture and other major plans. KSA's plan included a hotel with villas and condotels. Both companies were given extensions but again failed to submit the requisite documents spelled-out under their lease agreements.

"We regret the termination of these leases but we're not prepared to entertain speculators who tie up public lands with no benefit to the Commonwealth. The CNMI is only interested in investors of substance with real investment funds," DelRosario said.

"It would be an abrogation of responsibility if DPL continues granting extensions that would result in more extensions, a clear sign that lessees really don't have the investment funds to infuse into the local economy," he further noted.

"We welcome investors but only those who are ready to begin building and sharing their investments with the CNMI in real partnership," he concluded.

The Department of Public Lands also previously terminated the JG Sablan Pagan mining permit for repeatedly failing to abide by the permit conditions. ***(PR)***

Undersea cable project finished

PTI's undersea fiber project has been completed and all telecommunication services are now back on the deep sea fiber optic cable, according to company statement issued yesterday.

PTI would like to thank its customers, businesses and other telecommunication carriers for their patience and understanding during this project. Call 682-4PTI with questions. ***(PR)***

MARK RABAGO

Eucon's 10th Annual Graduation Ceremony was held at the school's newly built Agape Auditorium in Gualo Rai.

Three students top Eucon grads

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelfth grader Christa Wei, 6th grader Jan Azalia Cabanes and K5 John Oh received their President's Awards as top students during Eucon International School's recent graduation ceremony.

Eucon's 10th Annual Graduation Ceremony was held at the school's newly built Agape Auditorium in Gualo Rai. Students from 1st grade to 12th grade were also given awards for their outstanding academic performances in the 2007-2008 school year.

Principal Award recipient for 12th grade was Yun Ling Mai, 8th grade was Peter Miral, 6th grade was Yong Jung Kim, and K5 was Seo Jin Park.

Dean's Award recipient for 8th grade was Joon Lee, 6th grade was Carlo Dan Santos, and K5 was Ao Feng Zheng.

CHRISTA WEI
President's Award, 12th grade

YUN LING MAI
Principal Award, 12th grade

Eucon's 12th grade graduates were Wei, Mai, Anna Priscilla Poblador, Emalyn Torres, Lee Verne, and Endian Wang.

Christa Wei, the daughter of Eucon International School president Dr. Christian Wei, will enroll with the Eucon International College this Fall.

Dr. Wei said the school is very grateful for the many accomplishments of Eucon students throughout their course of studying at the school.

"Many of them have already applied for college and have already been accepted. We are very grateful for that," Dr. Wei said.

He emphasized the importance of education and recognized teachers as a key element to a successful education, as well as the need for students to commit themselves to learning more and the support the parents provide their children.

HELP WANTED
Entry Level

Customer Service & Sales Support

Successful applicant must

Have a HS diploma or have GED equivalent
Strong math and English Skills
Must have Drivers License and Reliable transportation
Must be organized and able to meet deadlines
Must be able to work in high volume, demanding environment
Must be friendly and enjoy working with customers
Conversational Korean or Chinese Language Skills Helpful

Please Apply at Delta Management Corporation
Shell Gualo Rai on Middle Road
Police and Court Clearance require with application
No calls please
Local or IR only

It's like extra credit for smart banking.
FirstChecking
from FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK
Your benefits include:
· No monthly service charge
· No minimum balance requirement
· FREE first order of 50 checks
· Discounted Online Payment Service*
Plus, enhance your account with these standard benefits:
· FREE MasterCard® CheckCard
· FREE FHB Online® (Online Banking)*
· FREE CheckImage
· FREE eStatements
LIMITED TIME OFFER
FREE Digital Projector Clock** when you open your FirstChecking account at any branch. Bring in this ad by June 30, 2008.
· Projects the time on wall or ceiling
· Includes alarm, calendar and snooze button
For more information, stop by any branch or visit fhb.com.
First Hawaiian Bank
We say Yes
Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936
150 YES
fhb.com
Member FDIC
*The Online Payment discounted fee is $3.99 per month. Optional features within Online Banking may incur additional fees. Does not apply to access through Quicken®, QuickBooks®, Microsoft® Money, or to business accounts.
**The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the digital projector clock is $100 (or just $5 with direct deposit). You will receive the digital projector clock as a gift when you present this ad and open a new (not converted) FirstChecking account. Offer expires June 30, 2008 or while supplies last. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Cannot be combined with any other promotion. Limit of one digital projector clock per customer or account. Must be 18-29 years old. FirstChecking benefits may be lost if the account is closed or converted to another type of account. Free first order of 50 checks applies only to new accounts, not to accounts converted from another First Hawaiian Bank checking account.

Island Snapshots

IN APPRECIATION
Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez and CHC Volunteers Association president Kim Prinz-Coats present Choken Ginoza, chairman of the Marianas Repatriation Association, with a certificate of appreciation for his donation of $500 to the association. The money was used to buy a cannulating arm tool that would help train nurses on how to insert a fisula on a patient's arms for dialysis treatment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT
This happy birthday shout-out goes to Jocelyn Aldan-Kapileo, who is celebrating her birthday today, June 11. "Pardy like a rock star and spend like an all-star!" From Vera and Madonna.

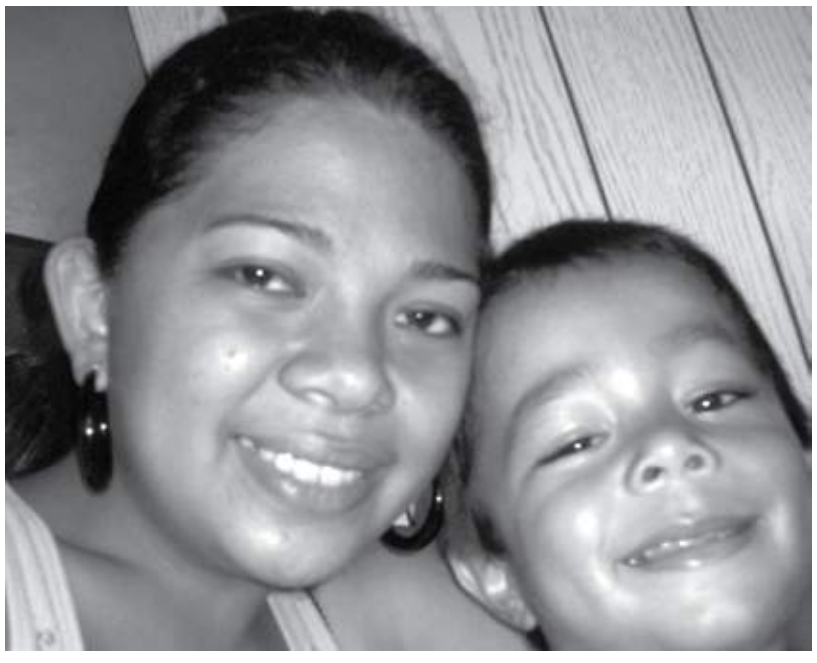
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PALMS RENOVATION
A tourist walks down the spiral staircase of the Palms Resort Saipan. The resort has an ongoing renovation and improvement aims to offer modern day requirements.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER
During a recent stopover on Saipan last month, U.S. Marine Col. Leo Falcam Jr., second right, was speaking in English to Marvin, far right, a Freedom Air employee, about a flying career in the U.S. military. Unbeknown to both that they originated from the same island of Pohnpei in FSM, the conversation continued on in English until another soldier interjected that the colonel is also an island boy. When the discovery of their shared ancestry was made, the conversation quickly changed to their native Pohnpeian dialect. Falcam is the base commander at Futenma Marine Air base in Okinawa. He is the first Micronesian pilot in the U.S. military, and also holds the highest rank of Micronesians in the military. He was raised on Saipan and attended elementary school here in the early '70s.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY GIRL
To Regina Reyes, happy birthday to a great person. We wish you the best and good luck in all your endeavors. From friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY BOY
Happy birthday Shayden Robert-Alan Andres Schrack on turning 2 years of age today, June 11. We wish you the very best on your very special day. Love and prayers from your mommy, your brother and sister, grandma, grandpa from miles away, and your entire Andres, Schrack, and Andres-Mongami family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 11, 1999

Dynasty wants power rate cut
It may take a while for the new power plant on Tinian to provide electricity to its biggest customer as the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino asked for leeway from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in view of its shaky financial condition. The problem-ridden casino has apparently appealed for waiver of fees and lower power rate as part of the terms if they decide to hook up with the 10-megawatt plant that opened last February.

Bill on FAS draws protest from Palau
A top Palau official has reiterated opposition against a pending legislation that will put in place a government monitoring system for Freely Associated States citizens residing in the Northern Marianas. House Speaker Ignacio Anastacio said both CNMI and Guam should address the issue on the costs of hosting their nationals to the federal government, adding Palau expects to get involved when the Compact is renegotiated later this year.

DLNR steps in to protect boats in Outer Marina Cove
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Jack Tenorio yesterday assured boat owners that the CNMI government will find a way to raise money for the construction of the breakwater that will protect vessels in the Outer Marina Cove. Tenorio said the fenders which have been ordered by DLNR will be arriving soon and will be immediately installed to ensure the safety of boats in the marina. "Once the breakwater is installed, the marina will look more like a lake. We will just have to find funding for it," he said.

June 11, 2001

Candidates support 50%+1 vote proposal
Gubernatorial tandems would face difficulty winning this year's race if legislation is approved imposing a run-off election between the two highest vote getters. The issue is one of securing the mandate of the majority of the voting public in the Northern Mariana Islands.

PDL, gov't sued over project
The Saipan Grand Hotel is seeking compensatory and punitive damages against Pacific Drilling Limited and two government agencies for alleged failure to remedy a mess caused by a public works project. The plaintiff has filed civil suit against Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the public agencies who contracted PDL to work on a public works project at As Lito.

Saipan transfer station project set to start
The construction of the proposed Saipan transfer station facility, which will serve as drop-off point for the island's trash prior to dumping at the planned Marpi sanitary landfill, is all set to start this Friday, June 15, 2001. According to Solid Waste Management Division Director John Harder, concerned government agencies and project principals have been busy preparing for groundbreaking ceremonies at the facility's Lower Base site to get the project underway.

June 11, 2002

A casino on Saipan?
Saipan could soon muscle in on the fiercely competitive casino industry, with the introduction of a bill that seeks to authorize casino operations in the Third Senatorial District. Senate Local Bill 13-7, a pre-filed measure authored by Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero, made its first legislative appearance during the upper chamber's Friday session on Rota.

Talks to rehabilitate BoS continue
Attorney General Robert T. Torres yesterday advised Bank of Saipan trustee David J. Lujan to secure a lawyer when participating in any discussion regarding the bank's rehabilitation plan. In his letter to Lujan, Torres said there are civil and criminal penalties attending the case apart from the purely commercial issues, which may necessitate the presence of a legal counsel.

Resumption of jet fuel leak cleanup pressed
With Saipan's public utility firm expressing concern over possible groundwater contamination, the Division of Environmental Quality yesterday pressed for the resumption of the jet fuel leak cleanup work at the Saipan International Airport. The DEQ said it wants the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Mobil Oil Marianas to resume the remediation work of the jet fuel leak that occurred at the Saipan International Airport sometime last year, or they face sanctions that include monetary fines.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC English placement test today

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test today, June 11. The test will be conducted in Room A-5 and will run from 2pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. ***(PR)***

Guam realignment gets its own website

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Joint Guam Program Office announced yesterday the launch of the official Web site of the Guam military realignment. The site, available at www.jgpo.navy.mil, is designed to keep the public informed on the effort to relocate approximately 8,000 Marines and 9,000 family members from Okinawa to Guam.

The site features background information on the military realignment effort, updates on the Master Planning and environmental studies, and details on the efforts in Washington to increase support across the federal government to assist Guam as it prepares for increase in population. Also included on the site is a section of frequently asked questions. There, site visitors can submit questions and those that are the most common will be answered and posted to the site.

Updates and additional information will be added to the site as they become available. ***(PR)***

Hopwood summer school

The Hopwood Junior High School announced that its Summer School would be from June 9 to July 18, from 7:30am to 1:30pm. All students who received notices and calls from school or received letters at home must report to school. If you have three or more absences, this is grounds for repeating the entire grade level next school year. ***(PR)***

KHS Q4 card issuance schedule

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: We are informing you that the 4th quarter report card issuance for Kagman High School is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, from 8am to 2pm in the school library. We would also like to inform you that the Summer School classes for English and Math will start on June 10, 2008 (Monday) at 8am to 12pm. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 reunion meeting

The 1983 MHS Class Reunion Steering Committee is asking all MHS Class of 1983 graduates to attend our last general meeting to get an update on the status of our upcoming reunion.

The meeting will be held Friday, June 13, 2008, 7pm, at the Kilili Beach Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe

You may contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

- Tonnei Camacho: 483-9665
- Viola Kaipat: 483-0214
- Ed Camacho: 483-5262
- Jane Tudela: 234-9571
- Frances Mildred Cruz: 483-0995
- Ester Teregeyo: 236-9777
- Ben Sablan: 287-1480
- Diego Songsong: 287-4300

CNMI Scholarship Office announcement

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on June 11 – 15, from 6am to 2am.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. ***(PR)***

Wells Fargo Financial Wants To Help You Celebrate Saipan Liberation Day!

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

Stop by Wells Fargo Financial on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to begin your Celebration! We are proud to be offering specially designed 100% cotton American and Saipan Flag T-shirts in honor of our July 4th Liberation Day (yours with an approved loan in the amount of $1,000.00 or more!)

Or, call ahead at 235-6030 and upon loan approval, we will have your loan check and Liberation Day T-shirt available (after signing loan papers.)

Why wait? Act now! The Saipan Liberation Day T-shirts are available while supplies last.
Call or stop by Wells Fargo Financial today!

Granting of loan is subject to our credit requirements. If you have an existing account with us, your new loan may be made by refinancing your existing account instead of as a separate loan.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/7 SAT	6/5 THU	5/26 MON	6/12 THU	5/27 TUE	5/31 SAT	6/13 FRI	6/9 MON	6/8 SUN	6/3 TUE	5/25 SUN	6/9 MON	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/14 SAT	6/12 THU	6/2 MON	6/19 THU	6/3 TUE	6/7 SAT	6/20 FRI	6/16 MON	6/15 SUN	6/10 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/16 MON	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT
MELL SENOKO	006E	6/21 SAT	6/19 THU	6/9 MON	6/26 THU	6/10 TUE	6/14 SAT	6/27 FRI	6/23 MON	6/22 SUN	6/17 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/23 MON	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	6/28 SAT	6/26 THU	6/16 MON	7/3 THU	6/17 TUE	6/21 SAT	7/4 FRI	6/30 MON	6/29 SUN	6/24 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/30 MON	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	01(E	7/5 SAT	7/3 THU	6/23 MON	7/10 THU	6/24 TUE	6/28 SAT	7/11 FRI	7/7 MON	7/6 SUN	7/1 TUE	6/22 SUN	7/7 MON	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/2 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/8 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/9 WED
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	6/28 SAT	SKIP	7/2 WED	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/17 THU	7/15 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/16 WED
MELL SENOKO	006E	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/9 WED	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/15 TUE	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/24 THU	7/22 TUE	7/20 SUN	7/23 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/12 SAT	SKIP	7/16 WED	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/31 THU	7/29 TUE	7/27 SUN	7/30 WED
STADT HAMBURG	019E	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/23 WED	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/7 THU	8/5 TUE	8/3 SUN	8/6 WED

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Robert Reyes
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 163

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Servers that snitch

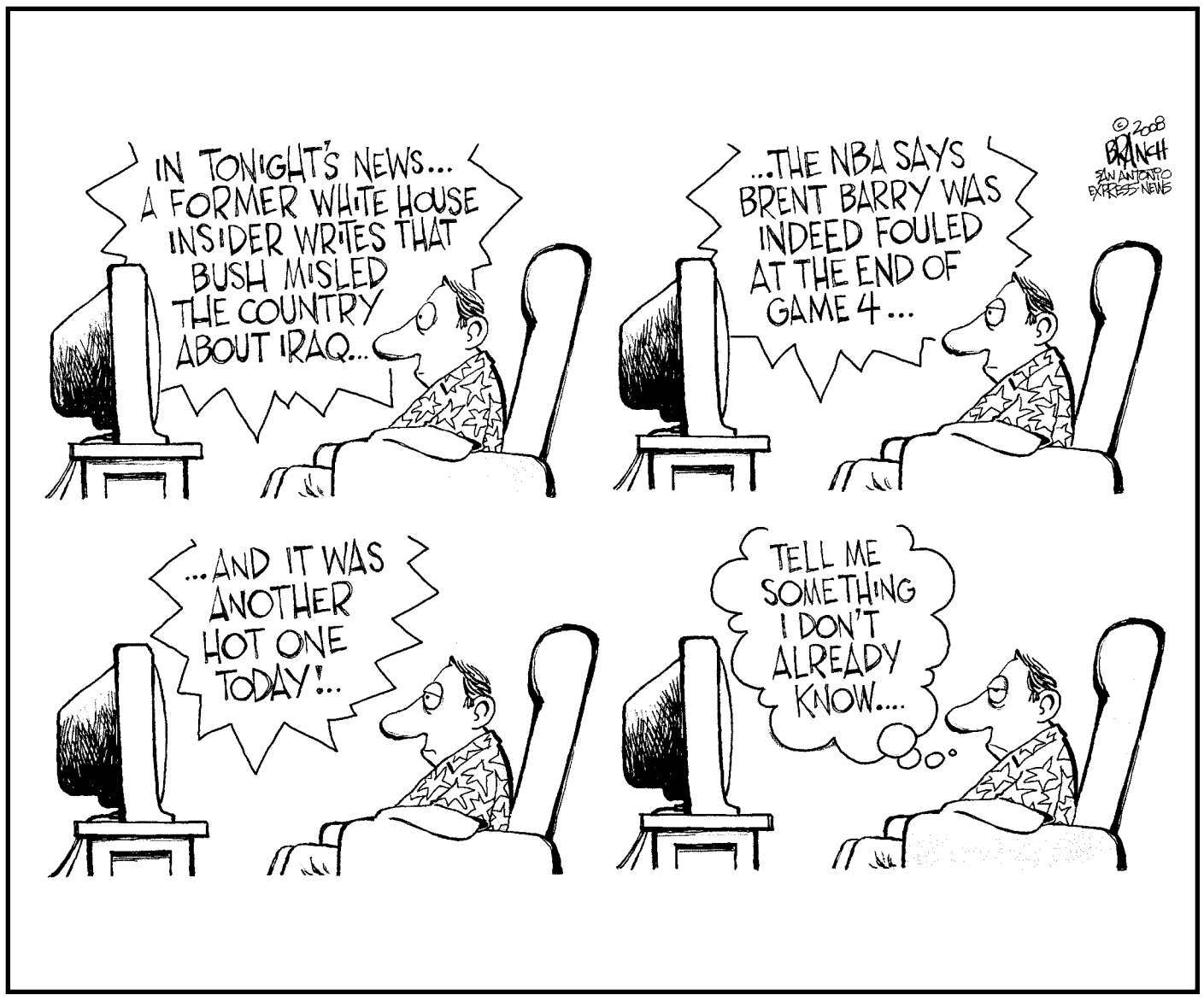
Everyone wants to boost American exports. But the last thing any U.S. company should do is sell tools of repression to authoritarian regimes abroad. It would be especially troubling if businesses were to help dictators muzzle the Internet, the most powerful facilitator of free expression and communication ever invented.

So there was understandable concern in the Senate last month over an internal document from the Hong Kong subsidiary of Cisco Systems. It appeared to suggest that the computer networking giant's Chinese employees contemplated pitching the Chinese Ministry of Public Security their products for use in "combating Falun Gong evil cult and other hostile elements." Falun Gong, a spiritual movement, has been harshly repressed by the Chinese government. A Cisco representative told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that the document did not propose using Cisco equipment for political purposes and that, in any case, no Cisco equipment is specially designed for spying or censorship.

The facts of this case remain to be sorted out. But, fairly or not, Cisco was on the defensive because other U.S. companies have assisted, or acquiesced in, Chinese efforts to create a freedom-free Internet. In 2004, Yahoo's Hong Kong subsidiary turned over e-mails that helped authorities identify and punish dissident journalist Shi Tao and others. Google's Chinese search engine blocks certain subjects that Beijing finds politically inconvenient. Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., called the hearing to explore whether the Senate should follow the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which has voted out the Global Online Freedom Act. The bill would subject U.S. Internet companies to civil and criminal penalties if they finger dissidents to repressive states. Its supporters argue that this would give American firms political cover when they resist cooperation with authoritarians abroad.

The bill would declare Internet freedom official U.S. policy, create a permanent State Department office on the issue, and require Google and other search engines to report all censored search terms to that office. It also includes a study of U.S. export controls, which may need updating to account for computer technology that can repress as well as liberate. These all seem sensible; we're less certain about the bill's penalty provisions. They apply to "Internet-restricting" countries, to be identified by the State Department. But would that include Germany, which polices neo-Nazi content that might be protected in the United States? China's Internet users are probably better off with a censored Google than none at all. But companies must not cross the line between grudgingly submitting to state control and actively assisting it. For 18 months, the industry has been working with academics, human rights groups and investors to come up with best practices for dealing with repressive government policies. The sooner, and more credibly, the industry regulates itself, the less need there will be for Congress to step in.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post


IN TONIGHT'S NEWS... A FORMER WHITE HOUSE INSIDER WRITES THAT BUSH MISLED THE COUNTRY ABOUT IRAQ...
...THE NBA SAYS BRENT BARRY WAS INDEED FOULED AT THE END OF GAME 4...
©2008 BRANCH SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS
...AND IT WAS ANOTHER HOT ONE TODAY!...
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T ALREADY KNOW....

No time for 'nobody home'

By RICHARD ARMITAGE and MICHELE A. FLOURNOY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The early months of 2009 may well be the most precarious period in recent American history. As the next president takes office, some 350,000 U.S. military personnel deployed overseas will await orders from their new commander in chief, the first wartime transition since Johnson-Nixon 40 years ago. The next administration will not only take charge of two wars but will also inherit daunting national security challenges: a global struggle against violent extremism; the continued proliferation of nuclear weapons to hostile states; growing challenges associated with energy security and climate change; an overstretched military under enormous strain; an economy sliding toward recession; and U.S. global standing at an all-time low.

The "nobody home" phenomenon that occurs between Election Day and the inauguration, as the old administration empties out and the new one has yet to fill its ranks, poses serious risks. It is imperative that this transition proceed quickly and effectively. As Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently noted, "It's important for us to get as many principals in positions as rapidly as possible in a time of war."

If recent history is any guide, however, the transition will last six months or longer. In the Clinton administration, it was May before the first undersecretary of defense was confirmed. More recently, Secretary of State Colin Powell waited six months until his senior team made it through the laborious process of nomination, confirmation and security clearances.

But the world does not wait for presidencies to get established. Several American presidents have been tested within their first few months: Kennedy became embroiled in the Bay of Pigs (April 1961); Nixon ordered secret bombing campaigns in Cambodia (March 1969); Clinton inherited a deteriorating situation in Somalia (May 1993); and George W. Bush had to deal with China's grounding of a U.S. Navy EP-3 aircraft (April 2001).

The next president is even more likely to be tested early. The nation cannot afford to wait six months to have key national security officials in place. We should aim to have them in office within days or, at most, weeks of Jan. 20, 2009.

An expedited clearance and confirmation process is also critical to enabling the president to engage his national security team in an intensive strategy development process to set clear priorities, determine how to pursue them and decide how to manage the inevitable trade-offs. The best historical example of such an exercise was President Eisenhower's Solarium process, in which he commissioned three senior teams to develop and debate alternative strategies for dealing with the Soviet Union. A modern-day Solarium process would offer a new president an invaluable opportunity to chart a new course for the United States in the world and form a cohesive national security team that shares a common vision and understands the president's intent.

The United States cannot afford a business-as-usual approach to the vetting, clearance and confirmation processes in wartime. We should seek now to build a bipartisan consensus among the presidential candidates, the executive branch and the Senate to orchestrate an expedited clearance and confirmation process for the top 40 to 50 members of the new president's national security team. Specifically:

■ Both presidential candidates should commit to submitting a slate of nominees for the top 40 to 50 national security positions at State, Defense, Homeland Security and the intelligence community by Dec. 1.

■ The Office of Personnel Management should commit to vetting this slate and expediting their nomination packages.

■ The FBI and other agencies responsible for vetting appointees for security clearances should expedite the process for this slate, with the aim of having each official cleared by the time he or she is confirmed.

■ The chairs and ranking members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate should commit to expedited confirmation hearings for this slate, with the aim of having secretaries and deputy secretaries in place within a few days of the inauguration and undersecretaries and key assistant secretaries in place no later than the end of February.

■ Departing administration officials with oversight responsibilities for Iraq, Afghanistan and other ongoing military operations should take pains to debrief their incoming counterparts to ensure smooth handoffs of operational oversight.

■ The incoming administration should attempt to keep key national security personnel in place until their successors are confirmed.

Such an approach is essential to reducing the risks inherent in a wartime transition and to enabling the next president to grapple effectively with the most daunting national security inheritance in generations.

Richard Armitage was deputy secretary of state in the Bush administration. Michele A. Flournoy is president and co-founder of the Center for a New American Security and former principal deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Clinton administration.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Malunggay! Moringa! The People's Power Plant!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

So here's what's gotten me excited! About a week ago, a friend introduced me to the leaves and fruit of the Malunggay tree. I should say RE-introduced, as he's mentioned it to me before. This time, however, after tasting some of it, I decided to do some research, and was astounded at what I found.

Many of you from the Philippines may be familiar with malunggay, but let me bring everyone else up to speed. *(You'll find much information searching online for "malunggay" as you will for its scientific name "Moringa oleifera," or simply "Moringa," so I'll use both in this article.*)

What it is

Moringa is a tree that grows widely in tropical and subtropical areas in Africa, Central and South America, Sri Lanka, India, Mexico, Malaysia and the Philippines. It's also known as The Drumstick Tree, Horseradish Tree, Maroenga in Indonesia, Malungkai in Palau, Kaanaeng-doeng in Thailand, and by many other names depending on the region. *(Search for "names of Moringa" at www.treesforlife.org for a list of over 400 names worldwide)*

Malunggay Nutrition

In your searches, you'll also find the following information touted on numerous websites. The leaves of the Malunggay tree, dried or raw, are reputed to have

7 times the vitamin C in oranges
4 times the calcium in milk
4 times the vitamin A in carrots
2 times the protein in milk
3 times the potassium in bananas, among a host of minerals, amino acids, proteins and other nutrients. *(search "Moringa" on www.naturalnews.com)*

Medicinal Uses

■ *Detoxification* - Studies have shown Moringa's ability to remove hazardous materials from water. Its usefulness in water purification has been demonstrated many times in university studies, in laboratories and in the field. This is now widely studied because it's estimated that 1.3 billion people in the world use contaminated water for drinking and cooking.

■ *Antibiotic* - Moringa is used as a topical treatment for minor infections. Its antibiotic property is identified as Pterygospermin, a bacterial and fungicidal compound. Studies have shown an agueous extract made from seeds was equally effective against the skin infecting bacteria Staphylococcus aureus as the antibiotic Neomycin.

■ *Skin Treatment* - Moringa has great healing benefits for the skin. It has been used to cure cuts, scrapes, sores, and rashes as well as cracking and other signs of aging.

■ *Anti-inflammatory* - The oral tradition of India has long praised Moringa as an anti-inflammatory for use in healing wounds. Moringa was also found to be effective in trauma-initiated chronic swelling.

■ *Diabetes* - An extract from the Moringa leaf has been shown to be effective in lowering blood sugar levels within three hours of ingestion. The effects increased with larger doses.

Traditionally, Moringa has been used for years with no reports of negative side effects. The powder made from fresh Moringa leaves seems to provide a long-lasting energy boost when used regularly. People frequently report having much more endurance in their work, at home and at play. *[from www.marikosfamilyfarm.com]*

Other Uses

Moringa is considered to be one of the most useful trees, since almost every part of the tree has some beneficial property: the leaves, leaf powder, pods, seeds, flowers, roots and bark of the drought-resistant Moringa are edible or have some other healing property.

Also called "the miracle tree", Moringa tree has many uses for people in Africa and also elsewhere it grows. Some parts of the Moringa tree can be used for animal feed, domestic cleansers, perfume, dye, fertilizer, medicine, rope fiber, and as an agent for tanning hides.

It's being used around the world to combat malnutrition. It's been used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries and is said to be useful in curing hundreds of diseases.

The list goes on and on: biofuel, intestinal cleanser, and it can even prevent lethal radiation damage to living tissues and reduce the severe side effects of radiation therapy.

Personally,

I use myself as test subject for anything I recommend, and can personally attest to Malunggay's power and, ahem, potency. A few other men, and women on island whom I've introduced it to also now speak highly of their own increased energy, endurance, and libido. After eating the raw leaves for two days, one lady says she has so much energy she feels like flying! Men, take note: The pods are known to increase semen production. Women, take note: The leaves increase breast milk production.

Anyway, I could go on and on about the benefits, citing research and providing anecdotes, but perhaps the best testimonial will be your own. Give it a try for a week. Eat the leaves, try the pods, and see what happens. *(If your diet isn't typically really healthy, you may notice a little discomfort as your body adjusts to the infusion of all those nutrients, throwing off and expelling toxins, rebalancing itself, rejuvenating, and reversing years of neglect. Don't fret, you'll be going through a "healing crisis" which should subside in a few days. Remember, it's just a vegetable. You don't need anyone's permission to eat a vegetable.*

Fresh malunggay leaves; a young pod, and mature pod.

Saipan? It just might work!

So here's where I'm going with this. In my own personal, perpetual quest for natural products and practices to complement my naturalist, minimalist lifestyle, while offering the same as assets to be used as examples of the health=wealth argument, I am getting a vision of a business idea: Preparation and export of Moringa could easily be done with existing resources and minimal expenditure!

Here are some encouraging, and exciting observations:

■ We've got it here! You can already find the pods on sale at vegetable stands at the Sabulu Market. We've got Malunggay growing just about everywhere here on Saipan!

■ It can be grown and harvested rather quickly—Moringa trees grow easily from seeds or cuttings. They grow quickly even in poor soil and bloom 6-8 months after planting. It could be developed as a cash crop in months rather than years.

■ The market is there. Worldwide attention is ever turning toward healthy alternatives, supplements and treatments.

■ Not a lot of processing is required. It's simply a matter of drying and packing the leaves, or pressing the seeds for oil.

■ Others are already doing it and showing it can be done. Check out the following excerpt from the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* website about a malunggay tea business:

It was Rosemarie's daughter, Imee N. Ramos-Garcia, who initiated it. The mother-daughter business was born out of a simple need to breastfeed Imee's firstborn. In 2004, 26-year-old Imee was a new mother trying brewer's yeast to almost anything just so she could optimize her breast milk production for her daughter. After trying several natural combinations, she was still producing only two ounces of breast milk.

Rosemarie, who was fond of boiling vegetables as broth, introduced Imee to "pinakuluang malunggay" [boiled malunggay]. She observed with amazement that 10 minutes after consuming one cup of the concoction, "my breasts started to feel engorged and I was able to pump out four to six ounces (of milk)."

The result also sparked the mother and daughter team's entrepreneurial spirit, as well. After noting malunggay's numerous other health benefits, they hired a chemist and worked on how to make the concoction available to busy urban dwellers. (Search for "malunggay tea" on the www.inquirer.net website for the full story)

So, in my vision, I see noni, daok oil, coconut oil, malunggay leaves, pods and oil being processed and shipped from the CNMI to a waiting world. I see this as one aspect of the "Powered by Paradise" brand identity I've mentioned before. In addition to the wind, solar and wave power our paradise can offer us here at home, resources like the Moringa "power plant" can power people, too, here and abroad!

And think how many people, who already have Moringa growing right in their back yards, could benefit!

Footnote:

I know what some of you are thinking: Here I am touting business ideas, encouraging entrepreneurship, and painting a picture of a prosperous Saipan, when there's not even reliable electricity. Am I crazy? Naïve? Perhaps. But I recently heard an NPR report about developers in war-torn Karachi, which may give you something to consider.

Karachi, a city in Pakistan, recently had the dubious distinction of being named "the fourth worst livable city in the world," of 132 big cities researched. In other words, they were fourth from the bottom (position 129) with only Lagos (130), Dhaka (131) and Algiers (132) being worse places to live. Despite this, there are companies erecting residential and commercial towers along the coast in anticipation of a prosperous future.

According to the report [from npr.org]:

Skeptics might ask why the company is doing business in a place that lacks reliable electricity and clean drinking water and suffers terrible violence.

"Well, you've got to start somewhere," [the developer] says. "You wish you had a power grid that was constant, you wish that you didn't drink bottled water, but the more you build these markets into an international market, the more those things will go away because they [will] have the resources to bring in the infrastructure that works."

[Search for "Karachi builders" on NPR.org]

Sure, there are numerous differences between Karachi and Saipan, but the point remains: You've got to start somewhere!

Therefore, I'm inviting one and all to join me on this bandwagon (as partner or competitor) in preparation for future prosperity. Let's start somewhere!

■■■

Note: *Meanwhile, it seems at least one reader was inspired to follow through on an idea from my May 14, 2008 "101 Business Ideas for the Saipanpreneur" Saipan Tribune column. I'll follow his progress and report back to you all! Stay tuned for details.*

Note: *Next week I'll be featuring an overview of The* Marianas Trades Institute.

Note*: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼79°

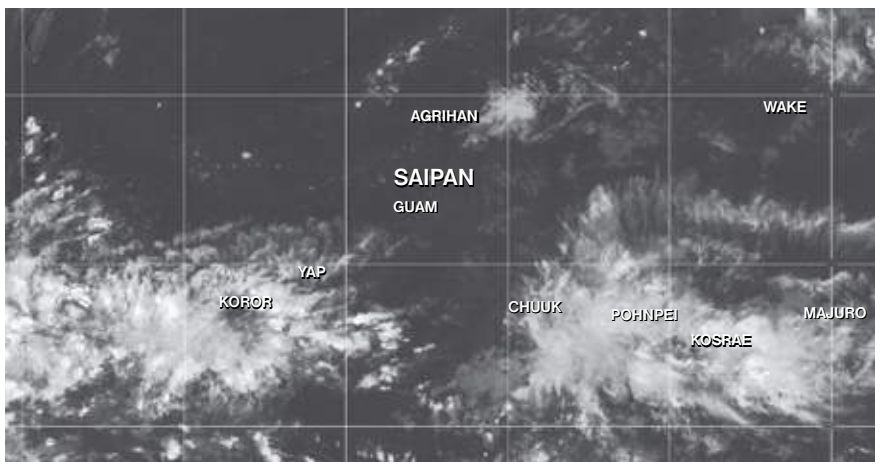
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼70
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼46
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Osaka	Showers	▲80	▼60
Paris	Mostly Coudy	▲65	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼62
Rome	Showers	▲70	▼60
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼66
Tokyo	Rain	▲74	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs northeastward from 15N135E to 24N150E and then undulates eastward as a frontal system to 21N161E to 25N170E to 22N176E and finally beyond 180 at 24N. Scattered showers were occurring along and up to 100 miles north of the shear line while scattered showers and a few thunderstorms were found along the front and northward to beyond 25N. The showers and thunderstorms associated with the front are concentrated near Minami Tori Shima between 150E and 155E and also northeast of Wake Island to the east of 167E. An upper-level low is centered near 19N147E or about 250 miles northeast of Saipan. The low is moving westward very slowly and is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the northern CNMI within 50 miles of a line from 16N149E to 21N149E. A surface trough extends northeastward from near EQ130E to 8N133E. Convergent winds near the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 130E to 138E. This area includes Koror but lies south of Yap. Convergent trade-winds are producing a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across eastern Micronesia. The area begins southeast of Chuuk and spans eastward across Pohnpei and Kosrae states to end in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The area is bounded by a line from 5N152E to 9N157E to 6N170E to 1N170E to 2N153E back to 5N152E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south and east of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 4N170E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:07AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:43AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
1:52PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:58PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:41PM	12:20AM
Thursday	13:29PM	12:55AM
Friday	2:17PM	1:30AM
Saturday	3:06PM	2:06AM
Sunday	3:56PM	2:44AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

SHEFA response to OPA 'review'

Editor's Note: The following is Part 1 of a three-part series on the SHEFA Program issued by the Office of the Saipan Mayor.

Following the delivery by OPA of information related to its "review" of SHEFA on April 28, the SHEFA Board of Directors engaged on its own independent evaluation of the OPA report. The OPA review focused on contractual services, compensation of board SHEFA policy on program eligibility. The SHEFA board forwarded its responses to OPA on June 3.

In response to OPA, the SHEFA board enumerated its own public policy recommendations, underscoring the importance in applying the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and Protocols in future "review" of government agencies.

Last April, OPA released a "review" of the Saipan municipal postsecondary financial assistance program. It proffered over SHEFA's lack of "fiscal prudence" in the operation and management of the program. OPA raised issue with SHEFA contracts over employment hiring, the frequency and amount of board remuneration, and SHEFA's policy and practice on eligibility for assistance in Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006.

SHEFA's objective analysis of the local municipal higher education assistance program shows SHEFA neither incurred operational cost overruns nor deficits in postsecondary assistance since its inception in Fall 2004.

Indeed, the SHEFA board is touted a model in fiscal restraint, operating in a fiscally conservative manner. For example, SHEFA's operational expenses readily reveal the board's frugal approach by its consistent pattern and practice against availing of publicly-financed lavishes and government-financed perks, or not even to engage in profligate spending propensities on government-paid travel off-island for "meetings with…", "inspection of…", "conference /training/professional development on…", or even for "rest /recreation/business-related this and that" public purposes for travel.

Since its inception to this day, the board refused to purchase or lease SUVs or luxury vehicles with public funds, as doing so would also require government-paid accident insurance, government-paid gasoline and lubricant, government-paid vehicle repair and maintenance, among many other government-paid this and that categories.

Not that the board members are or want to be inaccessible, but the members most definitely do not want and have in fact refused any government-paid state-of-the-art cellular gadget (e.g., Blackberry) or have their personal cellular airtime paid using public funds, as there is no public purpose being served other than for the private convenience of the user at government expense.

The same fiscal restraint characterizes the SHEFA workplace. SHEFA's office amenities consist of a single telephone landline and a facsimile line. The office also has operated with a rudimentary low-grade lethargic Internet connection. The bare bone office located in Garapan MIHA housing is equipped with two (2) generic desktop computers. They were purchased in 2005 at under $1500 each. A single generic wireless laptop is used on school visits or board presentations in public functions (e.g., workforce summit, school career day, etc.).

The board conference room reflects the board's frugality: it is cramped by any standard on Capital Hill, not big enough to accommodate more than 8-10 persons. The boardroom does not even add up to any reasonable comparison imaginable with the distinctly ornate and plush government offices on Capital Hill.

Instead, approximately 97 percent of SHEFA's fiscal and program resources accrue to the benefit of SHEFA scholars. These benefits include but not limited to SHEFA's postsecondary financial assistance program, academic and career guidance and counseling activities, and SHEFA's employment assistance referral services, among the activities of the board in the performance of their duties mandated in the SHEFA enabling statute.

SHEFA's independent analysis also reveals how robust Saipan municipal postsecondary financial assistance program has been over the years since its inception. The program is responsible for over 100 SHEFA scholars who graduated from colleges and universities on Saipan and abroad in areas of studies which include accounting, business administration, criminal justice, mathematics, psychology, computer science, communication, education (elementary and secondary and specialized areas), engineering, history, marketing, nursing, sociology, economics, hospitality management, and liberal arts.

Since SHEFA's inception, the board has meticulously reviewed and processed over 2,400 applications and support materials and awarded slightly over $5 million in grants, priority field incentives and grade point average scholarships to qualified Saipan residents, in sharp contrast to under $9,000 in board compensation for three years (2004-2006).

Monthly board remuneration in Fiscal Years 2004-2006 edged below $250. This figure translates to under $50 per month for every board member in the performance of board duties, which included review of student applications and supporting materials, inclusive of appeal hearings and dispute resolution activities in the formulation of board policies and program regulations. Not reflected in the computation are the time spent on other related activities of the board such as annual school visits to the participating public and private high schools (including the Northern Marianas College student body) on Saipan for a one-on-one question and answer engagement and dialogue with junior and senior high school students. Other SHEFA outreach activities include but not limited to face-to-face school visits, television talk shows, meetings with school counselors, forums with NMC, NMC counselors workshops, school career fair, NMC-WIA workforce summit meetings and manpower summit and SHEFA appeal conferences or hearings, work on rules and regulations with attorneys from the Attorney General's Office, individual conferences with students, parents, appointed representatives, including meetings with members of SNILD (e.g., April 21 and May 8, 2008), Secretary of Finance, holding telephone conferences with students, parents and members of the community, etc.

Clearly, given the enumerated activities above, the seemingly endless dialogue, and non-stop participation of members of the board directly related to or incidental in their role as members of the SHEFA governing board are only specimens of the multifaceted tasks being performed on weekdays, weekends, or holidays, in which members freely volunteer their time and presence in the performance of their duties. The same work schedule applies to the contractors, who are often on 24/7 work status, especially during the formative stages of SHEFA.

In other words, the foregoing services and activities performed and work products delivered during the review period by the board on behalf of the SHEFA program were not figured in the calculation of board compensation (i.e., free of charge). The members were compensated only for board meetings/work sessions.

The SHEFA governing board has continued to operate the local municipal postsecondary assistance program in a fiscally responsible manner as evidenced in SHEFA not incurring cost overruns on both the student assistance and program operation sides of the budget equation.

Other recommendations proffered by the SHEFA board include:

1. That a minimum threshold of content validation be required in order to properly establish inter- or intra-agency program comparability relative to program delivery and/or program effectiveness in part or in whole referenced in any introductory text to research, program review checklist or standard evaluation procedure and process in order to raise the bar and standard of review above and beyond discretionary due diligence.

2. That any review in the future shall be required to provide the agency in review a reasonable opportunity for an entry briefing to all appropriate parties at a time, date and venue determined by the agency involved, and not at the discretion of the reviewing agency conducting the review.

3. That any agency subjected to a review in the future shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for an exit briefing to all appropriate affected parties at a time, date and venue as determined by the agency involved, and not at the discretion of the reviewing agency conducting the review.

4. That any agency subjected to a review in the future shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to prepare and provide written response(s) in reference to information contained in a review during or before the conclusion of any review in part or in whole. In addition, no review should be available for distribution or discussion without receipt of written responses by respondent(s) on a deadline mutually set by all parties involved in or affected by a review.

More detailed information on the response to OPA by the SHEFA Board of Directors may be accessed in the SHEFA homepage at www.saipanshefa.com .

For specific information on the rules and regulations of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, visit the SHEFA website at www.saipanshefa.com , or contact the office by e-mail at contact@saipanshefa.com . Office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except austerity and legal holidays at which time staff may be contacted directly at telephone number (670) 233-5995 or queries may be made using SHEFA's facimile at (670) 233-5996. Due to time differences abroad, the SHEFA Office is equipped with retrievable voice messages and may be accessed at (670) 233-5995.

Application and support materials for Fall 2008 must be submitted in person or online (electronically) to SHEFA *before or on* July 1, 2008.

Dubious champion pro se litigant?

After conferring with some colleagues at Hamilton's Bar, who had worked at Northern Marianas College with Phil Swett and me, the consensus was to forget what Phil Swett recently wrote about me and my "pro se" legal adventures in the newspapers, since no one ever paid attention to his, or my, previous long-winded blabber fests at NMC.

However, a few of Swett's assumptions must be cleared up before I return to more important things in my life, like trying to keep my beer cold during CUC's attempts to seriously ruin one of the more cherished parts of living in paradise.

For openers, Swett, a former "newspaper editor" as he dubiously claims, should have checked some basic journalistic facts before he attacked Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and me. Granted, I have on "occasion" been a legal visitor to our court system, but the cases that Swett stated that I launched against NMC as a pro se litigant need to be reviewed before Swett elevates me to a "pro se" champion contender.

The most important and most lengthy lawsuit involving NMC and myself was *not* filed by me, but by *NMC*, after they lost their case at the Civil Service Commission. The Commission correctly ruled that I had civil service protections at NMC during an illegal termination and, subsequently, NMC filed the Superior Court case against the Civil Service Commission, who represented me in this important issue of due process.

Consequently, NMC lost twice in the lower court and both times appealed to a "more NMC-friendly" CNMI Supreme Court. Well, both times the Supreme Court bent the current laws and common sense to rule against the Commission and me. According to the Supreme Court, NMC is fully autonomous and a "sovereign" government agency—sovereign, as in completely independent of everyone, even the Pope. So, would someone please tell me why a "sovereign" and completely independent NMC is still constantly begging and acting dependent on the Legislature and the governor? Because contrary to the Supreme Court's ruling, NMC is still *totally dependent* on the Legislature to give them more funds, and a "non-sovereign" NMC is still subject to the ever changing laws of the Legislature, including civil service commission exemption or non-exemption.

Anyway, there were two other supplemental cases filed against NMC by me, which were dependent on the outcome of the Civil Service case and, consequently, since I got screwed in the Supreme Court in the Civil Service matter, everything else went into the toilet. One of those cases was filed pro se, and the other I had legal representation.

Therefore, Mr. Swett had only one out of three NMC cases correct. Not too good for a former "newspaper editor."

Frankly, I look back at the CNMI cases I was involved in, including a couple against PSS (pro se), and CUC where I had representation, and I feel okay. I've lost some and I've won some, but the cases generated much-needed reforms in a repressive labor situation against mostly "outsider" employees, and they also opened the so-called can of corrupted worms that wriggles throughout out island system.

Most importantly, when I read everyday that: 1) the CNMI has had, and continues to have, major labor and government problems and; 2) that businesses are closing down and people are leaving because of constant corruption and mismanagement; 3) that NMC is in serious WASC trouble because of the same problems that I previously fought against, i.e., administrative mismanagement (think La Fiasco for one); and 4) when I read about CUC's continuous saga of mismanagement and its 19th Century methodologies to deal with 21st century problems… I say what the hell, at least this bastard fought against the completely inexcusable attempts by some people here, both locals and outsiders, who are really messing up paradise. In retrospect, this was said by a Black Panther in the 1960s and I firmly believe in it and live by it: "If you are not a part of the solution, your are a part of the problem."

I could go on, but I currently have more important issues to deal with…my power should be going off pretty soon, and I got to ice down my beer again and get the candles out. And to John S. Pangelinan, I do wish you well in your times of personal battles against the system.

Jack Angello
Fina Sisu

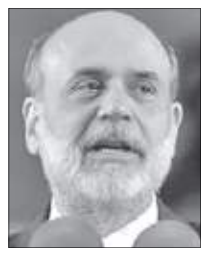
Business

'Downturn threat seems to have faded'

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite a recent spike in the nation's unemployment rate, the danger that the economy has fallen into a "substantial downturn" appears to have waned, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday.

Addressing a Fed conference in Chatham, Mass., on Monday night, Bernanke said a government report last week showing the unemployment rate rising from 5 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May - the biggest one-month jump in two decades - was "unwelcome." However, the Fed chief said other forces should "provide some offset to the headwinds that still face the economy."


Bernanke

The Fed's powerful doses of interest rate cuts, the government's $168 billion stimulus package, further progress in the repair of problems in financial and credit markets, a gradual ebbing of the drag from the deep housing slump and still solid demand from abroad for U.S. exports should help the economy over the remainder of this year, he said.

Although economic activity is "likely to be weak" during the current April-to-June quarter, Bernanke said "the risk that the economy has entered a substantial downturn appears to have diminished over the past month or so."

Last Friday fears were rekindled that the country could be headed for a deep recession after the unemployment rate zoomed and oil prices registered their biggest single-day leap.

However, Bernanke said, "Recent incoming data, taken as a whole, have affected the outlook for economic activity and employment only modestly."

Still, soaring energy prices are a double-edged sword for the country. Oil prices closed Monday at $134.35 a barrel, down from last week's high of $139.12 a barrel. They risk putting a further damper on growth as well as spreading inflation through the economy, Bernanke said.

"Inflation has remained high," largely reflecting sharp increases in the prices of globally traded commodities, Bernanke said. "The latest round of increases in energy prices has added to the upside risks to inflation and inflation expectations," he said.

Oil falls, but gas goes farther past $4

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices dropped Monday on a stronger dollar and a call from Saudi Arabia for a meeting to talk about prices it called unjustifiably high, but gas prices kept marching higher, leaving the $4 mark in the rearview mirror.

The dollar improved against the euro after Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said he would not rule out intervention to stabilize the U.S. currency. That provided some relief for oil, which is priced in dollars, after a record run-up on Friday.

Saudi Arabia called for a meeting of oil-producing countries. A Saudi minister said the kingdom would work with OPEC to "guarantee the availability of oil supplies now and in the future." He also said the current price of oil is unjustified.

July futures for light, sweet crude fell $4.19 to settle at $134.35 a barrel in volatile trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, oil jumped nearly $11, a single-day record.

But gas just kept climbing. The national average price of a gallon of regular rose 1.8 cents to $4.023, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. The average passed $4 on Sunday, although many parts of the country have paid that for weeks.

And if oil stays near $139 a barrel, the high it set last week, gas prices will probably rise another dime in the coming days, said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J.

Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs announces a number of new languages that the updated Apple iPhone will work with during his keynote speech at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco, Monday, June 9, 2008.
AP

Apple unveils faster new iPhone, lowers unit price

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The iPhone will soon be $200 cheaper and support satellite navigation and faster Internet access, but higher monthly service charges are likely to erase most of the savings.

Apple Inc. revealed Monday that it has scrapped its pricing plan for the iPhone as it unveiled a model that works over faster wireless networks, addressing key criticisms about the device that have hurt the company's foray into the cell phone industry.

An 8-gigabyte version with the new features will go for $199 when it goes on sale July 11, and a 16 gigabyte model will cost $299, the Cupertino-based company said.

Current iPhone owners who buy a new model and sign up for a new AT&T contract won't have to pay any penalties to get out of their current contract, AT&T spokesman Michael Coe said. And anyone who bought an iPhone in an AT&T store after May 26 can return it before Aug. 1 for full credit against a new one—less a 10 percent restocking fee.

Apple plans to make up the difference in sales revenue with volume—and with subsidies wireless carriers will now pay for the right to carry the gadget.

In changing the pricing arrangements, Apple is pulling out of revenue-sharing arrangements with some wireless carriers, a move that frees the carriers to charge higher prices for the service.

Apple shares fell $4.03, or 2.2 percent, to close Monday at $181.61 on the news, a sign that some investors were hoping for more and others were taking their profits after a four-month run-up in Apple's stock price, which leaped from $120 in March.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Giant Calif. land partnership files for Chapter 11

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The outlook for housing was still rosy a little more than a year ago when the nation's largest public employees pension fund invested almost $1 billion in LandSource Communities Development LLC, a real estate project that includes the last major tract of undeveloped land in Los Angeles County. But falling land values forced that venture into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection over the weekend, raising questions as to whether investors will ever recoup their money. LandSource said late Sunday it was seeking bankruptcy protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware after trying for months to restructure a $1.24 billion debt.

Major airlines roll back weekend fare increase

NEW YORK (AP)—A number of major airlines rolled back a weekend fare increase Monday, the first time in more than half a dozen attempts that a widespread price hike failed to take hold across the struggling industry. Carriers declined to say whether the shift signaled concerns about falling customer demand. Still, the decision served as a reminder that passengers - many reeling from financial worries of their own - may be nearing a tipping point in terms of how much they will pay to fly. Continental Airlines Inc. was among the carriers that increased prices over the weekend, but it rolled back the higher prices Monday morning, putting pressure on other carriers to do the same.

Bush not ruling out currency intervention

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush's forceful call on Monday for a stronger U.S. dollar in the world economy may be coming a little late for Americans fed up with gas prices topping $4 a gallon and steadily rising costs of other imported goods. As he left for Europe, the president said the U.S. is committed to keeping its currency strong, a point he clearly felt needed to be made after the dollar's long slide against the euro and other international currencies. Bush's words signaled his administration's concerns about the economy. The sinking greenback is one reason that fuel prices are at record levels.

Stocks finish widely mixed after Friday's sell-off

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks closed mixed Monday, with Wall Street exhausted from last week's swoon and still nervous about the effect of bank losses and energy costs on the economy. A pullback in crude oil prices provided only limited relief to investors, who largely stuck to the stocks of large companies. Crude prices dipped more than $4 to settle at $134.35 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange Monday, but only after Friday's $11-a-barrel surge to a new record. The Dow rose 70.51, or 0.58 percent, to 12,280.32 after Friday's rout, which was the worst tumble on Wall Street in 15 months.

McDonald's, others pull tomatoes over salmonella

CHICAGO (AP)—McDonald's, Wal-Mart and other U.S. chains have halted sales of some raw tomatoes as federal health officials work to trace the source of a multistate salmonella food poisoning outbreak. Burger King, Outback Steakhouse and Taco Bell were among other restaurants voluntarily withdrawing tomatoes from their menus, following federal recommendations that consumers avoid red plum, red Roma or round red tomatoes unless they were grown in certain states and countries.

Stock Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,566.200 Down 125.000 (-2.20%)
HONG KONG	23,531.93 Down 870.25 (-3.57%)
JAKARTA	2,396.9509 Down 13.126 (-0.54%)
TOKYO	14,003.94 Down 177.44 (-1.25%)
K. LUMPUR	1,230.98 Down 17.59 (-1.41%)
MANILA	2,645.95 Down 93.75 (-3.42%)
SINGAPORE	3,051.91 Down 32.11 (-1.04%)
SEOUL	1,773.13 Down 35.83 (-1.98%)
BANGKOK	793.93 Down 11.65 (-1.45%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	12,280.32 +70.51
NASDAQ	2,459.46 -15.10
S&P	1,361.76 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0535
British Pound	0.5078
Canadian Dollar	1.0247
Chinese Renmbi	6.9221
Euro	0.6414
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8109
Indian Rupee	42.895
Indonesian Rupiah	9330
Japanese Yen	106.736
Malaysian Ringgit	3.27
New Zealand Dollar	1.3223
Philippine Peso	44.073
Singapore Dollar	1.3674
South Korean Won	1024.375
Swiss Franc	1.0311
Taiwan Dollar	30.342
Thailand Baht	33.01

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama ramps up search for a running mate

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON(AP)—Barack Obama ramped up his search for a running mate on Monday, consulting with one congressional ally by phone and dispatching members of his vice presidential vetting team to the Capitol for meetings. Sen. Dick Durbin said he had spoken with Obama, his fellow Illinois senator.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., climbs the stairs as he boards his campaign charter plane at Raleigh-Durham International Airport in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, June 9, 2008.

AP

Jim Johnson and Eric Holder, who comprise two-thirds of the group Obama has asked to help guide his search, met separately with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid as well as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Reps. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina and Rahm Emanuel of Illinois.

Obama's campaign announced last week that he has asked Johnson, Holder and Caroline Kennedy to help guide the search.

None of the congressional leaders involved in the meetings have figured in speculation about a possible running mate, suggesting that the day's conversations were designed to seek advice. Durbin and Emanuel are barred from being on the ticket because the Constitution requires that the presidential and vice presidential candidates be from different states.

Johnson himself became a subject of campaign controversy during the day after a weekend report in The Wall Street Journal that he had received loans from Countrywide Financial Corp. with the help of the firm's chief executive, Angelo Mozilo.

Obama's campaign suggested its surrogates call the story "overblown and irrelevant."

But Sen. John McCain, the Republican nominee-in-waiting, jumped in quickly.

"There is nothing 'overblown and irrelevant' about millions of Americans facing foreclosure and Barack Obama entrusting his most important decision as a presidential candidate to a man who has accepted millions in special loans from a subprime mortgage lender," said Tucker Bounds, a spokesman for the Republican presidential contender.

The selection of a running mate is a top priority for both Obama and McCain.

McCain stirred interest when he held a Memorial Day weekend barbecue at his Arizona home and invited three potential running mates, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and their wives.

Obama has fielded numerous questions in recent days about perhaps offering Hillary Rodham Clinton a spot on his ticket. The former first lady suspended her own presidential campaign on Saturday and issued a strong endorsement for the man who edged her out in a marathon race for the nomination.

Mars lander scientists to try last soil shake

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scientists troubleshooting the Phoenix lander said Monday they will try one last shake to get a scoopful of Martian dirt inside a tiny oven in hopes of jump-starting their study of Mars' north pole region.

Phoenix's first science experiment to heat the permafrost soil was delayed after it was discovered that virtually none of it passed through a screen to reach a miniature oven, one of eight aboard the spacecraft that will heat soil and sniff the resulting vapors for signs of life-friendly elements.

"This soil is very cohesive and it's very hard for it to get through the screen," said mission scientist William Boynton of the University of Arizona in Tucson, who is in charge of the oven experiment.

If shaking the oven doesn't work, scientists will try sprinkling dirt through the opening of a new oven or using the lander's 8-foot robotic arm to grind up the dirt first.

It's the biggest challenge faced by Phoenix so far since landing in the Martian arctic on May 25 on a three-month mission to study whether the environment could be habitable for alien life.

Boyton said he was initially more concerned that the robot wouldn't collect enough soil, not its density.

"To be honest, we never thought it would be working so well that we'd have to worry about a riches of just too much," he said. "Now that we see the nature of that soil ... we really are much better off with very small amounts of soil."

Surrounded by sea, sailors kept afloat with stories

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—As night slid into day and back into night, and reef fish nibbled at their skin and the Gulf of Mexico roiled around them, the five survivors of the sinking of the Cynthia Woods sailboat kept talking.

Steve Conway, a retired Coast Guard commander and one of the sailboat's safety officers, told some of the sea stories he's famous for, careful to avoid "ones that involve utter calamity."

Then, he told reporters Monday, he detailed the protocol for Coast Guard rescues, giving the four Texas A&M students floating alongside him in the Gulf a timeline for the help they were certain would eventually come.

Those stories, that steadfast belief that they would be rescued and the jokes the five sailors tossed around as they bobbed more than 20 miles offshore kept their spirits and hopes up during 26 hours at sea.

The chatter sustained the five when they floated away from their 38-foot sailboat, which capsized after losing its keel just before midnight Friday. It gave them strength as they held onto one another by locking arms and lashing belts.

It fed their hope that Roger Stone, 53, the boat's other safety officer, had somehow survived after pushing two of the students to safety. No one panicked. No one gave up.

Instead, they kept watch for search crews and kicked their feet through the water, trying to steer themselves toward an oil rig about 5 miles away.

"The key to survival is to stay together, don't panic and a fierce will to live," Conway said. "All of the guys are here together because they did a great job."

The Cynthia Woods was competing in the Regata de Amigos, a race from Galveston to Veracruz, Mexico, that began around 2 p.m. Friday.

Midwest river washes away 5 homes

AP

A home near the 254-acre Lake Delton in Lake Delton, Wisconsin was damaged when flood waters breached the bank and drained the lake Monday, June 9, 2008.

LAKE DELTON, Wis. (AP)—An earthen dam along a man-made lake gave way under severe flooding Monday, unleashing a powerful current that ripped several homes off their foundations and down the Wisconsin River.

Floodwater threatened dams across the Midwest, and military crews joined desperate sandbagging operations to hold back Indiana streams surging toward record levels. Stormy weekend weather was blamed for 10 deaths, most in the Midwest.

While the Midwest struggled with flooding, the East was locked in a sauna. Heat advisories were posted Monday from the Carolinas to Connecticut, with temperatures topping 100 from Georgia to Virginia. New York City recorded a high of 99.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Monday it would close a 250-mile stretch of the Mississippi River—from Fulton, Ill., to Clarksville, Mo.—as soon as Thursday because of flooding, bringing barge traffic to a halt.

The closure could last up to two weeks, corps spokesman Ron Fournier said.

In Wisconsin, an embankment forming the side of the man-made Lake Delton failed, and the water poured out into the nearby Wisconsin River. The 245-acre lake nearly emptied, sweeping away three homes and tearing apart two others.

"It's horrible. There's no way we could stop it," said Thomas Diehl, a Lake Delton village trustee. "The breach is between 300 and 400 feet wide. The volume (of water) was just so great there wasn't anything anyone could do."

ACROSS THE NATION

Accused operator in Spitzer case to plead guilty

NEW YORK (AP)—A man accused of running an escort service that led to the downfall of former Gov. Eliot Spitzer will plead guilty, his lawyer said Monday. Murray Richman confirmed that Mark Brener, 62, will appear Thursday in federal court in Manhattan after negotiating a plea deal with the U.S. attorney's office. Richman called the deal fair. The agreement, reached about a week ago, is similar to the one federal prosecutors reached with Cecil Suwal, Richman said. Suwal, 23, ran the day-to-day operations of the escort service. She pleaded guilty to a pair of federal conspiracy charges June 3.

Flash floods inundate Wis. town for 2nd time

LAKE DELTON, Wis. (AP)—Flash floods inundated a southwest Wisconsin town Monday for the second time in 10 months, while 60 miles away an embankment along a man-made lake gave way, unleashing a powerful current that ripped homes off their foundations. The swollen Kickapoo River engulfed nearly the entire village of Gays Mills, forcing about 150 people to evacuate. The town was reduced to a grid of canals with cars submerged up to their windows and parking lots looking like lakes, just as it was last August.

Guilty plea in deaths of pregnant Ill. woman, kids

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (AP)—A woman pleaded guilty Monday to killing her pregnant friend, the unborn child and the victim's three children in a plea deal that allowed her to avoid the death penalty. Tiffany Hall, 26, pleaded guilty to all five charges against her - four counts of murder and one count of intentional homicide in the death of the fetus - and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Hall struck her friend Jimella Tunstall, 23, on the head repeatedly with a table leg, then cut Tunstall's fetus from her womb in a bathtub, prosecutor Robert Haida said. Tunstall bled to death, Haida said. Hall then dumped her friend's body in an East St. Louis lot.

Girl shoots herself with grandma's gun

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A 4-year-old girl shot herself in the chest Monday after snatching her grandmother's handgun from the woman's purse while riding in a shopping cart at a Sam's Club store, authorities said. A witness, Lueen Homewood, said store workers grabbed first-aid materials off store shelves to help the grandmother as she cradled the wounded child near the store's pharmacy, The (Columbia) State newspaper reported on its Web site. The girl was rushed to a hospital in critical condition and was recovering Monday afternoon after surgery, said police department spokesman Brick Lewis. Hospital officials would not release her condition after the operation.

Kennedy returns to Cape Cod after brain surgery

BOSTON (AP)—Fresh from his hospitalization for an aggressive surgery on a cancerous brain tumor, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy announced it was "good to be home" at his family's Cape Cod compound Monday and headed out for a sail. Kennedy left the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., on Monday morning and arrived at his family's Hyannis Port compound just before noon. With his thick white hair visible beneath a beige, wide-brimmed hat, he told reporters he felt "good to be home, good to be here." Within hours, he went out sailing with his wife, Vicki.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

2 boys killed when a bomb they found explodes in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police in the Philippines say two boys died and another was injured when a bomb they found behind a hospital exploded while they were playing with it. Senior Police Officer Jessie Go says the boys discovered two bombs Sunday in Rapu-Rapu, a mining township in eastern Albay province, and that one of them exploded. Go says a 9-year-old boy died on the spot while his 10-year-old friend from Taiwan died in a hospital. Another 8-year-old was being treated for injuries in Sunday's blast.

Police said Monday it was unclear how the bombs ended up in the hospital's backyard.

DVD-sniffing anti-piracy dog dies in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's plan to use dogs to sniff out pirated DVDs suffered a setback after one of two Labradors trained for the task died of an unknown cause, officials said Monday. Authorities were investigating the cause of death but did not suspect foul play, said Mohamad Roslan Mahayuddin, an official in the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.

"We are quite shocked," he said. Manny, a year-old male, died May 31. It was trained in Ireland with another Labrador, Paddy, to sniff out a chemical used in manufacturing DVDs.

UN steps up aid delivery in battered Myanmar delta

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—U.N. helicopters loaded with relief supplies reached areas of Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta Monday that have been cut off from regular aid since a devastating cyclone five weeks ago, an official said. Four of the five aircraft that arrived over the weekend got to work shuttling emergency supplies like rice and water purification systems to villages around the hardest-hit towns of Bogale and Labutta, said Paul Risley, a U.N. World Food Program spokesman. A total of four flights flew Monday to seven locations in the delta and six more sites were expected to be reached Tuesday, he said.

US Navy chopper may have been shot at in RP

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. helicopter on a humanitarian mission in the Philippines apparently was shot at, prompting the Navy to temporally halt the mission, a defense official said. An MH-60 helicopter operating from USNS Mercy hospital ship had gone to pick up 11 passengers about 50 miles (80 kilometers) inland, and two bullet holes were found when the aircraft returned to the ship with the passengers. "The holes appear to be an entry and exit point from a single bullet," Cmdr. Jeff A. Davis, a Navy spokesman, said Monday. It is unclear if the bullet struck while the passengers were on the helicopter, he said.

Quake-formed lake continues to swell

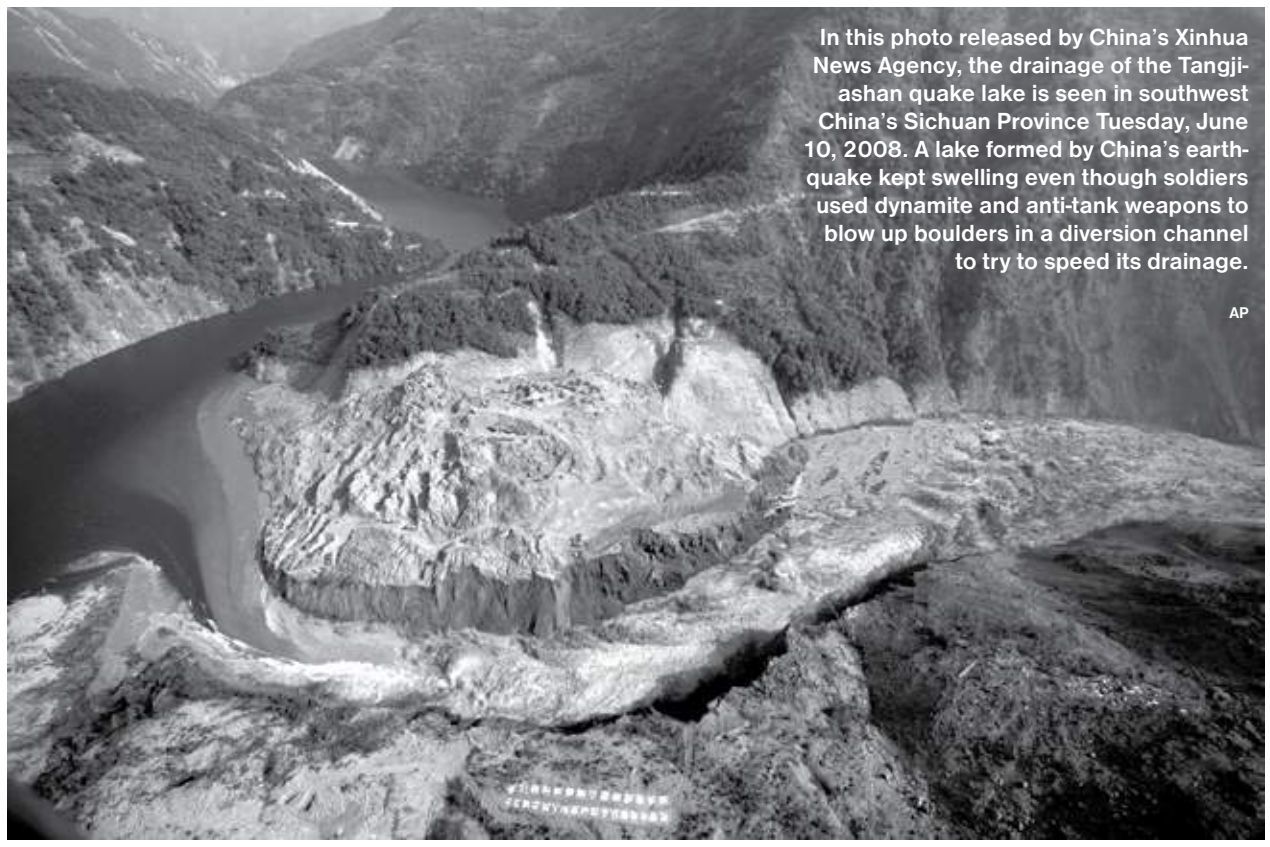
HONGYE VILLAGE, China (AP)—A quake-formed lake continued to swell Monday even though soldiers used dynamite and anti-tank weapons to blow up boulders in a diversion channel to try to speed its drainage.

Authorities remained on alert after yet another aftershock jarred the Tangjiashan lake, which could flood more than 1.3 million people downstream if the water flow is not controlled.

Military engineers fired ammunition at massive rocks in a spillway dug to relieve pressure on the unstable barrier blocking the river, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Soldiers have also used three tons of dynamite over the past couple of days to blow up boulders and double the width of the channel to 33 feet, the report said.

The flow in the channel increased after more than 10 explosions, but it was still not keeping up with the water gushing into the lake from the blocked river behind the dam.

On Monday, about 120 People's Liberation Army troops were sent to reinforce the operation to drain the lake, which formed when a landslide set off by the powerful May 12 earthquake blocked the flow of the Tongkou River. Crews were deepening the diversion channel and digging a second spillway, Xinhua said.



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the drainage of the Tangjiashan quake lake is seen in southwest China's Sichuan Province Tuesday, June 10, 2008. A lake formed by China's earthquake kept swelling even though soldiers used dynamite and anti-tank weapons to blow up boulders in a diversion channel to try to speed its drainage.

AP

The water level was more than 6 feet above the mouth of the spillway and rising, Xinhua said. Authorities were on alert for threats to the dam's stability including increased rainfall, new aftershocks and landslides that could deposit rubble in the lake and push water levels even higher.

More than 250,000 people downstream from Tangjiashan lake have already been evacuated in recent weeks. Many were living in improvised camps on surrounding hillsides, surviving on instant noodles and suffering from heat, mosquitoes and a lack of water for bathing.

Man abducted in 1975 flees N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean abductee has escaped from North Korea after more than 30 years in the communist state and is now under South Korean protection in China, an official said Monday.

Yoon Jong-soo, 65, ended up in the North when his fishing boat and 32 other crew members were seized off South Korea's east coast in 1975.

A Foreign Ministry official confirmed that talks concerning Yoon are taking place.

"South Korea and China have been in talks over Yoon and China is not opposed to sending him back to South Korea," the official said, asking that he not be named, citing the issue's sensitivity.

Yoon fled the North in May and entered the South Korean consulate in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang later that month, said Choi Sung-yong, head of a group of relatives of South Koreans allegedly kidnapped by the North.

However, Yoon's North Korean wife and daughter were arrested and under investigation, said Choi.

Of those who were seized with Yoon, three have returned to South Korea in recent years. Yoon is among 480 South Korean civilian abductees, mostly fishermen, who are believed still alive in the North.

"I am overwhelmed with joy and my heart is beating since I came to know that my younger brother is still alive," Yoon's elder brother Yoon Joo-seung told The Associated Press.

Besides the civilian abductees, South Korea also estimates that 560 soldiers from the 1950-53 Korean War are still alive in the North. North Korea denies holding any prisoners of war, and claims that civilians voluntarily defected.

In a departure from a decade of liberal rule, new conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has asked North Korea to consider sending home prisoners of war and captured civilians in return for receiving humanitarian aid from Seoul.

Tokyo attacker foretold mayhem in messages

TOKYO (AP)—As mourners, some weeping, piled Japanese comics, flowers and other mementoes at the scene of a deadly stabbing rampage, the government Monday sought to impose tighter controls over large knives and provide better security in public places.

News that the attacker had posted Internet messages saying he intended to kill people in the Akihabara district, the heart of Tokyo's comic book and youth culture, added to the shock as Japan struggled to make sense of the violence, which left seven people dead and 10 wounded.

"It's unbelievable that things like this are happening in our country," said 19-year-old Tsutsumo Hirano, who attended high school with one of the victims, paying respects at the makeshift memorial.

Tomohiro Kato, 25, a temporary worker at a factory outside Tokyo, was splattered with blood when he was arrested Sunday during the lunchtime attack in the crowded shopping district.

Police say Kato rammed a rented two-ton truck into a crowd of shoppers, then jumped out and began stabbing victims who had been knocked down before lashing out at others in the crowd.

AP

A "manga" illustration, left, is offered among flowers, soft drinks and others at a special stall set for mourners to visit to offer prayer for victims of the Sunday stabbing rampage at Tokyo's Akihabara shopping district Monday, June 9, 2008.

On Monday, Internet sites and the media carried a series of messages posted on an electronic bulletin board in the hours before the attack.

National broadcaster NHK said Kato posted messages under a thread titled, "I will kill people in Akihabara," and wrote: "I want to crash the vehicle and, if it becomes useless, I will then use a knife. Goodbye, everyone."

Filipino TV crew believed kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An international media watchdog said Tuesday it was deeply concerned for the safety of a Manila television crew who police suspect was kidnapped by al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in the southern Philippines.

Security forces were searching for ABS-CBN senior reporter and news anchor Ces Drilon and two cameramen who were reported missing on Jolo island since Sunday.

The network's official statement Tuesday said only that Drilon, Jimmy Encarnacion and Angelo Valderama "are missing" in Sulu province, and that "all efforts are under way to find them and bring them home."

"Until we learn more details, ABS-CBN News requests other media to report this matter with utmost consideration for the safety of our news team," the statement said.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said it was "deeply concerned for the safety of these three journalists."

Bob Dietz, the group's Asia coordinator, said in a statement that the volatile southern region of the Philippines "remains insecure for the press, and we call on local authorities to work diligently to secure their safe and swift release."

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye expressed hope for Drilon and the crew's safety and appealed to the media for restraint.

The regional police chief, Chief Superintendent Joel Goltiao, said a crisis management committee headed by Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan has been trying to get in touch with the abductors. Goltiao said he was unaware of any ransom demand.

World

US airstrike in northern Iraq kills five

BAGHDAD (AP)—American soldiers called in an airstrike Monday during an attack on a house believed used by foreign fighters, killing five militants and capturing more than a dozen others, the U.S. military said.

The firefight broke out early Monday when American soldiers, acting on information from an Iraqi prisoner, came under heavy gunfire as they approached the suspected hideout in a remote area of northwestern Iraq, the U.S. said in a statement.

Soldiers called in an airstrike, which destroyed the house, triggering secondary explosions from the weapons and explosives stored inside, the statement said.

Five men were confirmed dead, and multiple suicide vests and heavy machine guns were also found in the ruins of their hideout, it said.

The statement did not give a precise location for the raid. But northwestern Iraq has long been used by al-Qaida and other Sunni militant groups as an infiltration route for smuggling weapons and fighters into the country from Syria, according to the military. Monday's battle was among a series of raids over the past two days in northern Iraq against Sunni militants, who remain active despite suffering severe setbacks last year in fighting with U.S. and Iraqi forces in Baghdad.

In Beiji, an industrial city about 150 miles north of Baghdad, American soldiers detained five suspects Monday in an operation against a militant bombing network.

AP

A U.S. Soldier of 1-6 battalion, 2nd brigade, 1st Army Division, is reflected in a pool of water as he patrols in the Shiite enclave of Sadr city, Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, June 9, 2008.

An alleged al-Qaida in Iraq bomber was captured Monday with another suspect in Mosul, and five others were arrested south of the city, the military said.

The al-Qaida in Iraq "emir" of Tikrit, a Sunni Arab city north of the Iraqi capital, was arrested late Sunday along with three other suspects, the statement said. Two other al-Qaida suspects were picked up in Baghdad.

U.S. officials have said al-Qaida and other Sunni groups have been trying to undermine efforts to reconcile Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities in the north and pressure Sunni tribesmen against cooperating with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

On Sunday, one American soldier was killed and 18 were wounded in a suicide truck bombing attack in Tamim province of northern Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, the top U.S. commander in the north, told Pentagon reporters Monday in a videoconference that the Tamim attack "was an attempt to counter some of the reconciliation efforts" and to show that insurgents retain the power "to intimidate people in this area."

Elsewhere, a car packed with munitions blew up near a passing Iraqi army patrol Monday in the Karradah area of eastern Baghdad, killing three civilians and an army lieutenant, police said.

The blast, which wounded at least 12 others, damaged several cars and shops in a busy commercial district of the Shiite-dominated neighborhood, which is among the safest in the city.

Note and head found near Mexican newspaper office

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico (AP)—A note threatening a Mexican journalist was found outside the office of a newspaper in southern Mexico on Monday, two days after someone left a severed head there.

Tabasco state Attorney General Gustavo Rosario said the letter was directed at Juan Padilla, editor of El Correo de Tabasco, which recently carried reports about migrant smuggling and kidnapping in the area.

"You are next," the note read.

The head of a man police identified as a low-level drug trafficker was found outside the offices on Saturday. Soldiers later located his body in another part of the city alongside a separate note that said, "This is what will happen to those who go around pointing fingers."

International media rights group Reporters Without Borders issued a statement Monday condemning the threats.

Media groups say Mexico is one of the world's most dangerous places to report, and journalists - especially those covering powerful drug cartels or official corruption - have been threatened, harassed, kidnapped and killed.

Ancient laborer burial excavated near Rome

ROME (AP)—First-century burial grounds near Rome's main airport are yielding a rare look into how ancient longshoremen and other manual workers did backbreaking jobs, archaeologists said Monday.

The necropolis near the town of Ponte Galeria came to light last year when customs police noticed a clandestine dig by grave robbers seeking valuable ancient artifacts, Rome's archaeology office said.

Most of the 300 skeletons unearthed were male, and many of them showed signs of years of heavy work: joint and tendon inflammation, compressed vertebrae, hernias and spinal problems, archaeologists said. Sandy sediment helped preserve the remains well.

Judging by the condition of the skeletons, archaeologists concluded that the men likely carried loads on their backs at a nearby port during the early years of Imperial Rome, said Gabriella Gatto, a spokeswoman for the archaeology office.

Many ailments "seem to hark back to work as laborers, in transport and carrying of heavy loads, in an especially humid environment, circumstances that makes one think of the burial of individuals who worked in port areas of the city," the office said in a statement.

Finding a necropolis near ancient Rome is not rare, but most of them have been the burial grounds of the privileged classes. So the Ponte Galeria find is enlightening experts how the ancient lower class lived.

Hunger in Ethiopia now spreading to adults

SHASHAMANE, Ethiopia (AP)—Like so many other victims of Ethiopia's hunger crisis, Usheto Beriso weighs just half of what he should. He is always cold and swaddled in a blanket. His limbs are stick-thin.

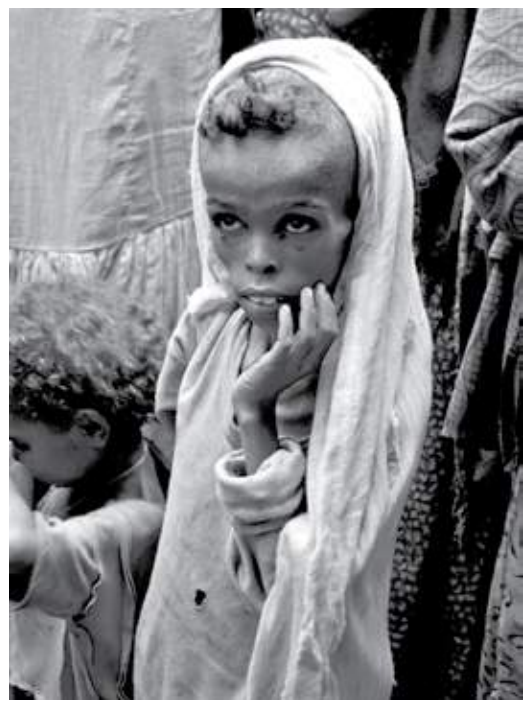
But Usheto is not the typical face of Ethiopia's chronic food problems, the scrawny baby or the ailing toddler. At age 55, he is among a growing number of adults and older children - traditionally less-vulnerable groups - who have been stricken by severe hunger due to poor rains and recent crop failure in southern Ethiopia, health workers say.

"To see adults in this condition, it's a very serious situation," Mieke Steenssens, a volunteer nurse with Doctors Without Borders, told The Associated Press as she registered the 5-foot-4 Usheto's weight at just 73 pounds.

Aid groups say the older victims suggest there is an escalation in the crisis in Ethiopia, a country that drew international attention in 1984 when a famine compounded by communist policies killed 1 million people.

This year's crisis, brought on by a countrywide drought and skyrocketing global food prices, is far less severe. But while figures for how many adults and older children are affected are not available, at least four aid groups interviewed by the AP said they noticed a troubling increase.

"We're overwhelmed," said Margaret Aguirre, a spokeswoman for the International Medical Corps, a Santa Monica, Calif.-based aid agency. "There's not enough food and everyone's starving, and that's all there is to it.



AP

Six year old malnourished Tariken Lakamu waits for food aid , Friday, June 6, 2008 in the southern Ethiopian town of Shashamane.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran's supreme leader opposes US-Iraq deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iraq's prime minister made little headway in easing Iranian opposition to a U.S.-Iraqi security pact, as Iran's supreme leader told him Monday that American troops must leave the country. The deal, which is still under negotiation, could lay the groundwork for a long-term U.S. military presence in Iraq. The Iranians fear the deal would solidify U.S. influence in Iraq and give American forces a launching pad for military action against them. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki met over three days with Iranian leaders in Tehran, trying to ease the neighboring country's opposition to the agreement—apparently hoping to stop Iranian denunciations while assuring the Iranians that a deal would pose no threat to their security.

Poland bids farewell to a young volleyball player

TARNOW, Poland (AP)—A diagnosis of bone marrow disease at 17 did not stop volleyball player Agata Mroz from helping Poland's national women's team win two European gold medals since 2003.

"With a gold medal around my neck," she once said, "I thought I had conquered this illness. I expected God to smile on me for good." But the benevolence proved fleeting. The disease returned and she died just two months after giving birth to a daughter, a pregnancy she said made her feel lucky all over again. At a funeral Monday in the Roman Catholic church where she married Jacek Olszewski exactly one year before, the 26-year-old athlete was remembered for her heroism in sports and the grace with which she bore the disease.

Fuel prices halt 3 French naval missions

PARIS (AP)—The French navy canceled three summer missions Monday because of soaring fuel prices—including a counternarcotics exercise off the United States. The ripple effects of spiraling fuel prices are also being felt in Spain, where truckers and fishermen are striking in protest. "All of our missions are important, but we had to cut those that were least crucial," said navy spokesman Pascal Subtil. The most significant of the canceled missions involves a training exercise off the east coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. The French ship De Grasse was slated to sail alongside U.S. vessels in an exercise to train for preventing drug-trafficking.

Key players back Nov. 30 Ivory Coast election

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Ivory Coast's president, opposition leader and key electoral officials told the U.N. Security Council on Monday that a repeatedly delayed presidential vote can take place as scheduled on Nov. 30. The election is key to restoring Ivory Coast to the ranks of functioning democracies. The country—split in two after an attempted coup sparked civil war in 2002—signed a peace deal in March 2007 that brought key rebel leaders into the administration and offered the best hope yet of a single government after years of foundering accords and disarmament plans.

Campus Life

Double majors to compete, but spread too thin?

By LARRY GORDON
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Laura Simurda faced a difficult decision recently in choosing which of three simultaneous graduation ceremonies to attend at the University of Southern California. After all, she was a triple major, earning degrees in astronomy, history and print journalism. Simurda finally chose to be among her astronomy classmates but doesn't want to be pigeonholed, because she found both science and the humanities stimulating. "It always seemed to keep my brain running in both fields," she said.

Such eclectic academic tastes are increasingly evident this college graduation season as students seek extra credentials to help them compete in a tightening job market. U.S. Department of Education statistics show an 85 percent rise in the number of bachelor's degrees with double—and the relatively rare triple—majors over the past decade.

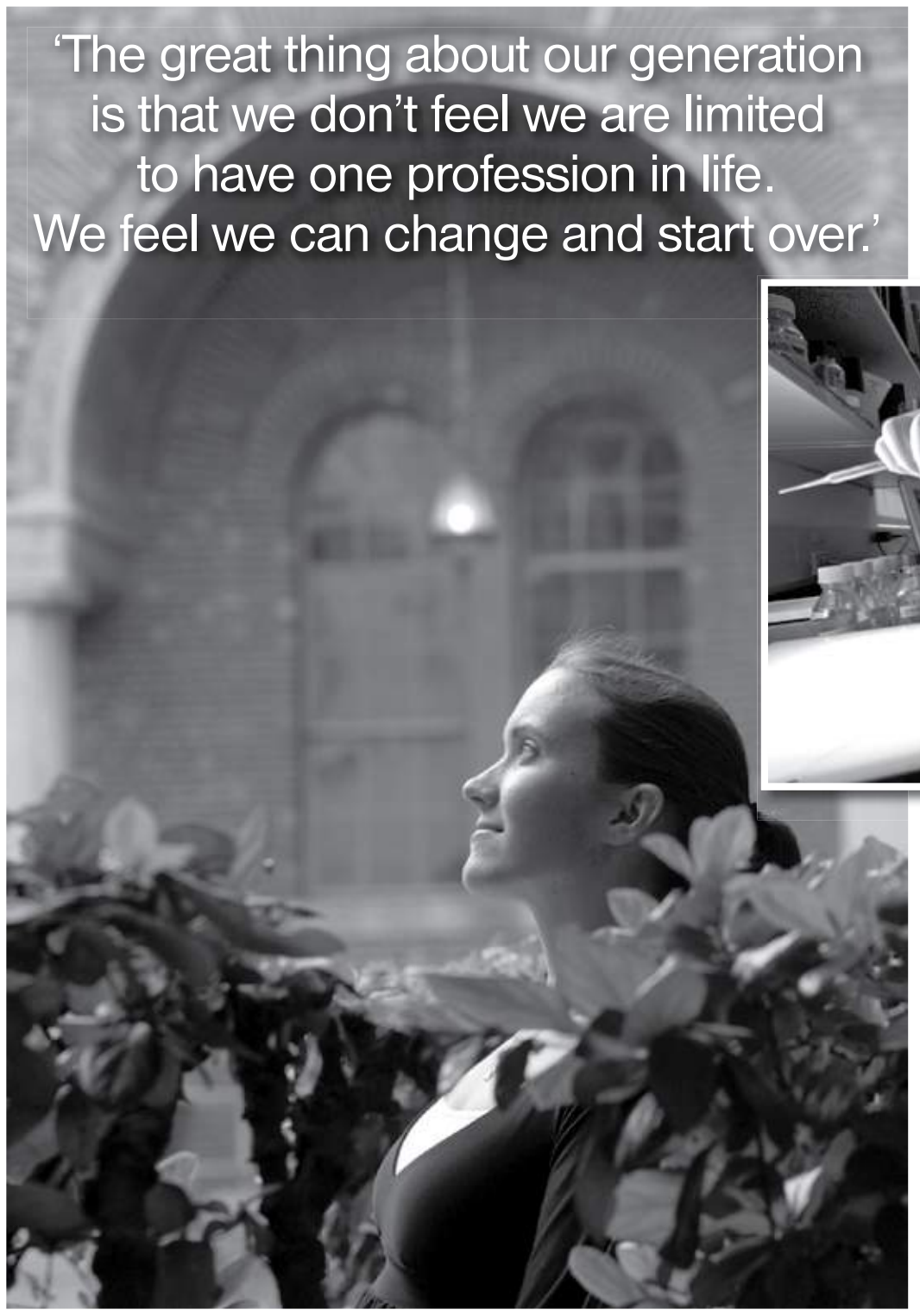
Some experts say the trend reflects a more complicated world that needs broad thinkers to solve society's problems. But some describe it as another step in resume-building that has obsessed some young people since their high school honors courses.

Students think the double majors will distinguish them from the mob and appeal to graduate schools and potential employers.

Clifford Adelman, a senior associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy, a think tank based in Washington, D.C., said he sees more double majors but is not sure they help students in life other than allowing them to demonstrate ambition.

"These are signaling devices. And there is nothing wrong with signaling achievements," he said, adding that the increase also reflects colleges' marketing of the double-major option.

Not surprisingly, plenty of double majors link allied topics, such as philosophy and political science. Others are less tidy packages, such as a recent art history and economics pairing at the University of California, Los Angeles, and dance and environmental science at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.


'The great thing about our generation is that we don't feel we are limited to have one profession in life. We feel we can change and start over.'

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Laura Simurda of Lake Forest, Calif., graduated from the University of Southern California with three majors.

At Pomona College in Southern California, Darby Walters graduated recently in molecular biology and English literature. Walters, an Oregon resident, said she met the requirements of 16 semester courses for molecular biology and 11 for English because "being able to define yourself in several different ways is definitely a positive thing." At Pomona, about 10 percent of seniors have double majors.

While juggling Chaucer and DNA strands was stressful at times, Walters said she had no regrets. She plans to do volunteer health work in New Zealand and then decide between medical school or a graduate program in English. Or possibly do both, at different times.

"The great thing about our generation is that we don't feel we are limited to have one profession in life," Walters said. "We feel we can change and start over."

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Darby Walters of Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., says she met the requirements of 16 semester courses for molecular biology and 11 for English because "being able to define yourself in several different ways is definitely a positive thing."

In general, double majors requires students to devote a half to two-thirds of their courses to the two subjects.

The popularity of double majors varies widely, in part because of different policies.

Some schools have rigid requirements that make it difficult, but others allow some classes to count in both majors. The topic gets complicated because some colleges advocate academic minors instead, a less onerous undertaking involving fewer courses than a second major.

At USC, about 9 percent of graduates earn a double major or more, compared with about 4 percent a decade ago. Other schools showing significant increases in double majors include UC San Diego, Wesleyan University and the University of Washington in Seattle. (UCLA allows double majors but has seen a large increase in students taking minors, which was not permitted before 1995.)

Eric Frank, dean and vice president for academic affairs at Occidental College, said students are free to choose them, but he isn't enthusiastic about it. At Occidental, a Los Angeles school where about 9 percent of students earn double majors, students must write a major research paper or create a special project in each discipline.

"Our experience generally has been that if a student chooses to do two majors, the deep quality of work is threatened because it has to be spread too thinly over two subjects," Frank said.

Also, he said, a broad education can be sabotaged by a double major, which would leave little room left for exploration of other subjects. Too often, he said, double majors are "taking the kind of high school notion of competition and applying it in college and then to their professional life. And it's not the same."

In contrast, USC strongly encourages double majoring, even if students need an extra semester to meet requirements. "We think it's a wise thing to take the undergraduate years to explore if you have multiple interests," said Nelson Bickers, USC's vice provost for undergraduate programs. "You never know in the future which direction your career is going to lead."

In 2000, USC President Steven B. Sample established the Renaissance Prize to honor high grades in two or more separated fields, either a double major or major-minor combination. Ten graduating seniors a year are awarded $10,000 each for further studies.

2008 enrollment in US expected to set record

By MARIA GLOD
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Public school enrollment across the country will hit a record high this year with just under 50 million students, and the student population is becoming more diverse in large part because of growth in the Latino population, according to a new federal report.

Nationwide, about 20 percent of students were Hispanic in 2006, the latest year for which figures were available for ethnic groups, up from 11 percent in the late 1980s.

Overall, about 43 percent of the nation's students are minorities, according to the Condition of Education, a congressionally mandated annual look at enrollment and performance trends in schools and colleges.

Educators and activists, pointing to the shifting demographics, say it is becoming urgent to find ways to boost achievement of minority and low-income students, who often lag behind white and middle- to upper-income peers.

"Latino students have long underperformed versus Anglo students ... and they are continuing to underperform," said Peter Zamora, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "When Latino students were a small percentage of the population, this maybe didn't need to be a significant concern of policymakers. But when one out of five students is Hispanic, this isn't a Latino issue, this is an American issue."

According to the report, which drew on data from local school systems, colleges and national and international exams, dropout rates among whites, blacks and Hispanics are lower than in 1972. But Hispanic and black students are still more likely than white students to fail to complete high school.

The report also examined academic achievement. On a nationwide math exam, scores of fourth- and eighth-graders rose from 1990 to 2007. The achievement gap between black fourth-graders and their white peers narrowed, but it was unchanged among eighth-graders. The achievement gap between white and Hispanic students in both grades stayed about the same.

"We still just have unacceptable gaps in achievement," said Barbara Kapinus, senior policy analyst for the National Education Association.

Federal officials say the No Child Left Behind law is helping schools focus on gaps as never before because it aims for all students to hit grade-level targets in reading and math. But Kapinus said too many schools and students lack the money for the latest technology and other resources.

"We just feel like we're not paying attention to what kids have access to in our schools. Everybody is talking about rigor, but it's not just about rigor," Kapinus said.

According to the report, the number of school-age children will continue to grow, hitting an all-time high of 54 million in 2017.

Life & Style

Vintners rethink and replant to stay competitive

AY, France (AP)—Fruity merlot from Siberia? Not so fast, say vintners from Champagne to California.

As global warming threatens to change the land vintners have relied on—sometimes for centuries—established wine growing regions around the world are deploying techniques old and new to adapt.

The goal: to stay competitive as progressively hotter harvests open up the prospect of wine from regions once deemed unsuitable for growing grapes—including Russia's frozen but now thawing lands and rain-battered Britain.

In France's southern Languedoc region, for example, once-sacred rules against irrigating vines are being relaxed, while growers in the U.S. are experimenting with genetically modified heat-resistant grapes.

That's because by 2050, the world's premier wine-friendly zones could shift as much as 180 miles toward the poles, says climate geographer Gregory Jones of Southern Oregon University.

In theory, that will make northern Europe or New Zealand more grape-friendly than Bordeaux or Australian valleys.

That has beverage conglomerates in the U.S., where wine is a $100 billion-a-year industry, scouting out vine plots that get more shade—contrary to age-old practices in both the northern and southern halves of the globe.

Meanwhile, sommeliers are readying for an array of new aromas as vintners vary varieties in response to warm weather.

"You are going to see people introduced to wines from weird countries, like Belgium," says Jancis Robinson, wine expert and co-author of the latest edition of the "World Atlas of Wine."

"You will see a lot more wine from Germany, which can finally ripen its grapes, ... and good Canadian reds," she says.

AP

Vince Bedient walks on his vineyard in Branchport, N.Y., Tuesday June 3, 2008. Over the past five years, he has taken a sharp turn away from the native labrusca vines long favored in west-central New York's Finger Lakes, one of America's oldest wine-and-grape regions.

Climate and market forecasts, and studies of grape behavior, suggest that during the next two generations—not a long time in wine terms—vintage Kent and Chinese or Canadian chablis could occupy as much supermarket shelf space as Bordeaux, Rioja and Napa's finest.

In addition to creating new wine regions, the warming trend is changing established ones.

To keep their vines cool, Argentine producers are planting them closer to the Andean slopes and in Patagonia. In South Africa, winemakers have moved sauvignon blanc vines to higher altitudes and sought patches open to cooling sea breezes.

In Ay, where producers such as Moet & Chandon and Veuve Clicquot nurture precious plots, harvesters hit fields in late August last year—the earliest since 1822, according to the Champagne Growers' Committee, which sets harvest dates.

Leaving the pinot noir and chardonnay grapes on the vine any longer would have risked too much heat, too much alcohol and a strange new sweetness.

"Those who make wine have always been sensitive to climate," says Pierre Cheval, whose Gatinois Champagne House, a small family winery in Ay, has seen plenty of industry ups and downs during 11 generations in business. "Temperatures, humidity, microclimates, all this is essential to the health and originality of the grape."

He says smaller vintners face a tougher time adapting to climate change, since it takes several years to coax good wine from a new vine or to make a profit on new grape varieties.

But water is a concern to all vintners, large and small.

In arid Australia, winemakers who have long depended on irrigation have been parched by the country's worst drought in a century. And with government estimates predicting a sharp increase in dry spells in coming decades, industry experts say investment could shift from hot places such as Barossa Valley to the southern island of Tasmania.

In France's sun-roasted Languedoc, where winemaking dates to the 5th century B.C., the government relaxed irrigation rules to allow producers to slake the vines' thirst.

In many vineyard areas of inland and southern Spain, viticulture soon could be unsustainable without irrigation. Farmers today grow vines in untrained bushes far apart to allow each a chance of surviving on scarce underground water.

Higher temperatures also mean grapes are more sugary, meaning more alcohol when fermented—too much, in fact.

"We have been assessing alcohol reduction techniques, mechanical as well as through vineyard changes," says Lorenzo Banos, of Casa de la Ermita winery in the Jumilla region on Spain's southeast coast.

Climate scientists say global warming has brought heavier than usual rain to some regions—which leads to more fungus outbreaks and attracts new pests. A recent Italian study suggested increased intense rains are a threat to Tuscan wine quality.

Southern Europe's loss, though, may prove England's gain.

"The biggest problem with English wineries is keeping up in demand," says Christopher White, general manager of Denbies Winery in Surrey. "Climate change is one of the biggest factors for the growth of the industry."

"We haven't been hit by a frost in six years," he says. "The buds burst earlier, which gives a longer ripening period... The volume is getting higher year after year, and the industry is more on par with what happens on the Continent."

Study: Resto smoking bans influence teen smoking

By STEVE LeBLANC
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—A Massachusetts study suggests that restaurant smoking bans may play a big role in persuading teens not to become smokers. Youths who lived in towns with strict bans were 40 percent less likely to become regular smokers than those in communities with no bans or weak ones, the researchers reported in the May issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

The findings back up the idea that smoking bans discourage tobacco use in teens by sending the message that smoking is frowned upon in the community, as well as simply by reducing their exposure to smokers in public places, said Dr. Michael Siegel, of Boston University School of Public Health, and the study's lead author.

"When kids grow up in an environment where they don't see smoking, they are going to think it's not socially acceptable," he said. "If they perceive a lot of other people are smoking, they think it's the norm."

Siegel and his colleagues tracked 2,791 children between ages 12 and 17 who lived throughout Massachusetts. There were no statewide restrictions when the study began in 2001 but about 100 cities and towns had enacted a hodgepodge of laws restricting smoking in workplaces, bars or restaurants.

The teens were followed for four years to see how many tried smoking and how many eventually became smokers.

Overall, about 9 percent became smokers—defined as smoking more than 100 cigarettes.

In towns without bans or where smoking was restricted to a designated area, that rate was nearly 10 percent. But in places with tough bans prohibiting smoking in restaurants, just under 8 percent of the teens became smokers.

The study found that having a smoker as a parent or a close friend was a factor in predicting whether children experiment with cigarettes. But strong bans had a bigger influence on whether smoking grew into a habit, reducing their chances of becoming smokers by 40 percent.

"There is really no other smoking intervention program that could cut almost in half the rate of smoking," Siegel said.

AP

A participant of a smoker demonstration holds a cigarette during an event against a scheduled anti smoker law in Munich, southern Germany, on Monday, Dec. 10, 2007.

Age was also a factor. Smoking bans had a greater effect on younger teens than on older teens.

The researchers said it's not clear whether strong bans would have the same effect in other states since local towns adopted their restrictions as part of an aggressive anti-smoking campaign throughout the state.

A statewide workplace smoking ban that included restaurants went into effect in mid-2004. Since then, high school smoking rates in Massachusetts have continued to decline, from about 21 percent of students in 2005 to about 18 percent in 2007.

Many restaurant owners fought the ban, saying it could drive away diners, according to Janine Harrod, director of government affairs for the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, which represents 2,000 restaurant owners.

While some restaurants were hurt initially, the effects have eased over time since the ban applies to everyone, she said.

Bill Phelps, a spokesman for Altria, parent company of cigarette-maker Philip Morris USA, said the study shows that the reasons teens take up smoking are complex.

"There is no single reason why young people engage in risky behaviors like smoking," he said. "We believe that there should be a multifaceted approach to address youth smoking."

At least 23 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico require most public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars, to be smoke free, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Another nine states ban smoking in workplaces but have various exemptions for restaurants or bars.

"We already have more than enough evidence why we should pass these smoke-free laws, but certainly this study should help push them along," said Danny McGoldick of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Conflicting pictures emerge of alleged R. Kelly victim

By MICHAEL TARM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—She's been described over several weeks of testimony as a Christian singer and a point guard, a participant in three-way sex and as the goddaughter to one of the music industry's biggest stars.

Even the family of the alleged victim in the R. Kelly child pornography trial doesn't seem to agree about her, especially about whether she's on a 27-minute sex tape that could send the R&B star to prison for up to 15 year if convicted.

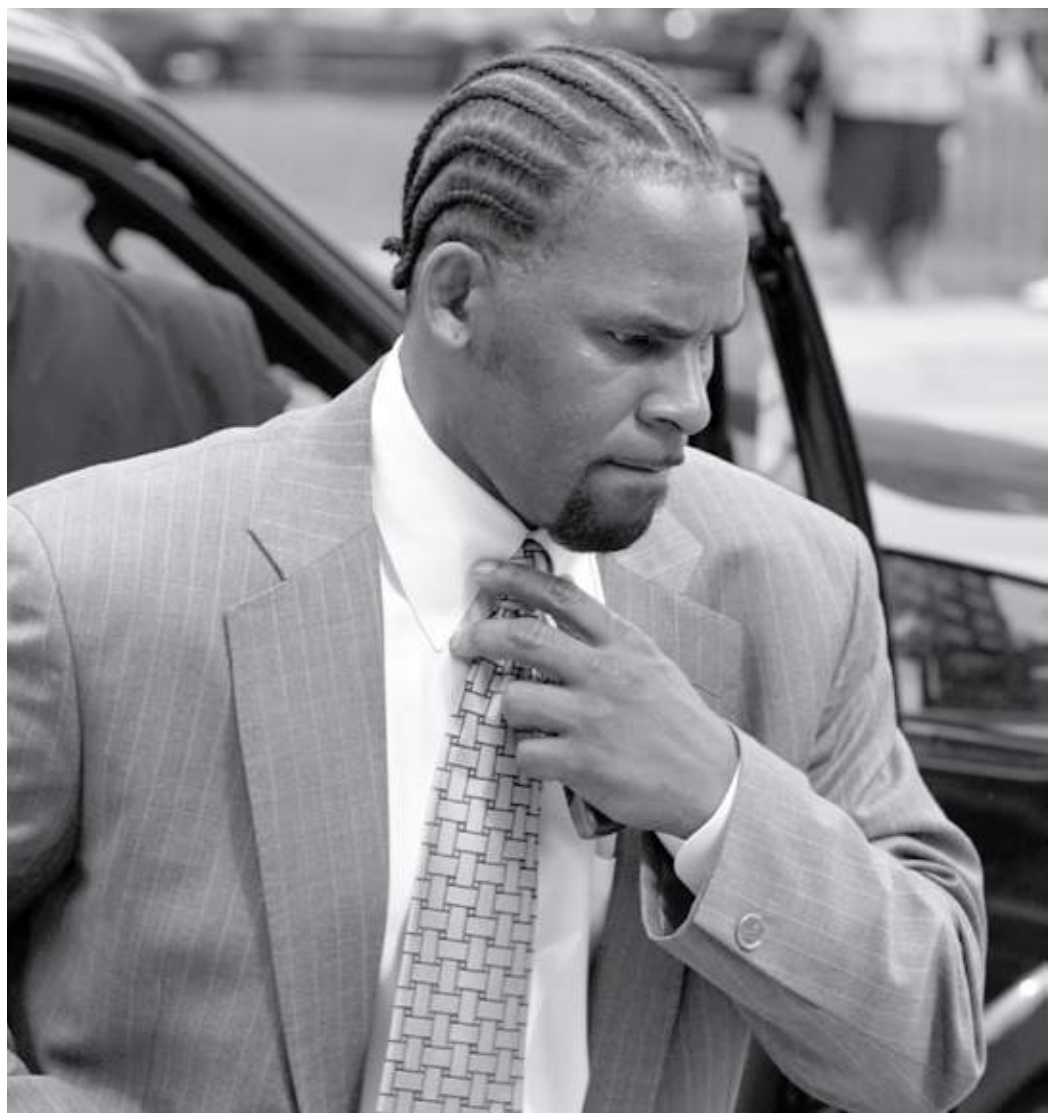
The alleged victim says it's not her on the tape. So testimony from prosecution and defense witnesses has sometimes painted contrasting pictures of the person who once called Kelly her "godfather."

Four family members have testified for the prosecution that she is the person on the tape; three have testified for the defense that she's not.

Asked by prosecutors whether the family has "split in half as a result of this incident," one relative, Leroy Edwards Jr., answered softly, "Yes."

Kelly, 41, has pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of child pornography. His lawyers say it's neither him nor the alleged victim on the tape, suggesting the images could have been computer-generated - possibly in a bid to extort money from the singer.

Prosecutors say she was as young as 13 when the tape was made. Now 23, the woman has been identified at the trial, but The Associated Press does not name suspected victims of child pornography in most cases. She has not spoken publicly about the case.



AP

In this June 2, 2008 file photo, singer R. Kelly returns to the Cook County Criminal Court Building after a break as his child pornography trial continues in Chicago.

Photographs of her when she was about 13 show a short, smiling, cherub-faced girl. In pictures shown to jurors, she's in uniform after basketball games, her arms around other players. Prosecutors also played a music video featuring the girl and three other teens in a R&B-tinged musical group that toured Europe several times in the '90s.

No one questions that Kelly and the alleged victim knew each other.

Singer Stephanie "Sparkle" Edwards, best known for the 1998 duet "Be Careful" with Kelly and is a relative of the alleged victim, introduced her to Kelly at a music studio when the girl was around 13 and Kelly was around 30, Edwards testified.

"He liked her spirit," a teary-eyed Edwards told jurors. "She was a very jolly person." The girl was fond of Kelly "as a father figure," recalled Edwards, adding she didn't suspect a sexual relationship until news broke years later about the tape.

Sometime after meeting Kelly, the alleged victim began telling her friends and acquaintances he was her godfather, her childhood friend Simha Jamison testified. Jamison, now a 24-year-old hair stylist, also told jurors that Kelly frequently gave her friend cash gifts and the two teens would go on shopping sprees with the money.

Some of the testimony has focused on her physical features.

A middle school basketball coach said he recognized the alleged victim as the female in the tape by her high forehead, saying he and her friends would joke with her about it.

"You were joking about a seventh grade girl having a big forehead?" defense attorney Marc Martin snapped at Joel Rhea, sounding incredulous. "The kids were," Rhea responded.

A relative testifying for the defense, Charlotte Edwards, told jurors the female in the video couldn't be the alleged victim because the breasts of that person were too large.

Prosecution witness Lisa Van Allen, 27, told jurors she had three-way sex with Kelly and the alleged victim several times, starting in 1998. During one encounter in a trailer at the set of a music-video shoot, the alleged victim "had to run into the bathroom naked" when someone came to the door because Kelly didn't want others to see her there, Van Allen testified.

Prosecutors said they would not ask the alleged victim to testify. The defense hasn't said whether they will, though Kelly attorney Sam Adam Jr. asked jurors in opening statements why prosecutors chose not to call her.

"One answer," he said, his voice booming. "One: It's not her on that tape."

To bolster their argument that the female on the tape and the alleged victim couldn't be the same person, the defense has taken frequent opportunities to praise her character.

"(She) is as sweet, as nice and as lovely a person there is," Adam said during opening arguments.

He juxtaposed that image with the female in the video, who takes money from the man before having sex with him. "The woman on that tape is getting paid," he said. "The woman is a prostitute, not a victim."

Another Kelly attorney, Ed Genson, made a similar point when he cross-examined prosecution witness Bennie Edwards Jr., another relative and a member of the alleged victim's music group.

Asked if the way the female acted in the video bore any resemblance to the alleged victim as he knew her, Edwards shook his head: "It's not her character at all."

Defense rests case in R. Kelly trial

By MICHAEL TARM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly's defense lawyers rested their case Monday after calling about half the number of witnesses as prosecutors in less than half the time.

Kelly's lawyers called 12 witnesses over two days last week at his child pornography, including three relatives of the alleged victim who testified they did not recognize the female who appears in a sex tape at the heart of the case.

The prosecution called 22 witnesses over seven days. They included several childhood friends of the alleged victim and four of her relatives who identified her as the female on the graphic, 27-minute video.

Kelly and the alleged victim, who both deny being on the tape, never testified.

Jurors sat in court for just minutes Monday morning before Judge Vincent Gaughan sent them home, saying they would have to return Tuesday to hear two rebuttal witnesses for the prosecution.

Kelly, 41, has pleaded not guilty to child pornography for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with a female who prosecutors say was at young as 13. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison.

Kelly won a Grammy in 1997 for "I Believe I Can Fly," and is known for such raunchy songs as "Bump N' Grind," "Ignition," and for "Trapped in the Closet," a multipart saga about the sexual secrets of a lively and ever-expanding cast of characters.

One observer in the courtroom gallery Monday was actor Eric Lane, who plays the hotheaded character Twan in the "Trapped in the Closet" series.

Closing arguments will likely take place Thursday, Gaughan said.

A lower-back mole - already the focus of hours of testimony - will again be a central issue during Tuesday's rebuttal, prosecutor Shauna Boliker told the judge.

Winehouse apologizes as her husband pleads guilty

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse denied that her singing of a slur-filled ditty made her a racist Monday, the same day it was learned that her husband—who videotaped the performance—pleaded guilty to assault and other charges that could cost him more jail time.

The video, taken by Blake Fielder-Civil sometime before his arrest late last year and published Sunday by the News of the World, shows Winehouse and another woman sitting on a couch, singing a string of racial epithets to the tune of the children's song "Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes."

Fielder-Civil, holding the camera, is heard encouraging them to sing it, insisting afterward he "wasn't recording it ... I swear on my life." The video goes on to show Winehouse passed out on the couch.

Winehouse later stood outside her north London home, telling paparazzi that she was sorry, adding: "I don't want to play anything down, but I'm the least racist person going."

Fielder-Civil, 26, was being tried in London on charges of attacking pub landlord James King, and then conspiring with King to have the landlord withdraw as a witness.

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2008, file photo, Amy Winehouse performs at the Brit Awards 2008 in London.

Fielder-Civil and three-co-defendants pleaded guilty last week, but a court order barred reporting the pleas because King is scheduled to face a separate trial. Judge David Radford lifted the reporting restriction Monday.

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil married in Miami in May 2007. He was arrested in November and has been in jail awaiting trial ever since.

Winehouse has become an international star since she released the Grammy-winning album "Back to Black" in 2006. But her music has been overshadowed by reports of her drug use, runins with the law and tempestuous relationship with Fielder-Civil.

Winehouse's spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday from The Associated Press.

Fielder-Civil faces a maximum of five years in prison for the assault charge. Perverting the course of justice - the equivalent of obstruction of justice in the U.S.—carries a maximum sentence of life, though that is unlikely to be imposed in this case.

The defendants are due to be sentenced later.

Lionel Richie gets laugh at daughter's expense

SANTAMONICA, Calif. (AP)—It's not easy raising a celebutante. Take it from Lionel Richie. The singer was accepting the "Icon" honor at Sunday night's taping of the TV Land Awards, when he got applause and a laugh at daughter Nicole's expense.

"Forget about surviving 40 years in the music business," Lionel Richie told the audience. "Just surviving 27 years of Nicole Richie has been a struggle-and-a-half, I want to tell you. I stand here as a survivor, I want you to know, for all the parents out there."

In 2007, Nicole Richie spent 82 minutes in jail after being convicted of driving under the influence of drugs. She was arrested in December 2006 after witnesses reported seeing her Mercedes-Benz sport utility vehicle headed the wrong way on a freeway in Burbank, Calif.

Nicole, who made a name for herself on Fox's "The Simple Life" along with Paris Hilton, hasn't posed for any mug shots lately. Rather, she has been spotted out and about with 3-month-old Harlow, her daughter with Good Charlotte rocker Joel Madden.

The sixth annual TV Land Awards are scheduled to air June 15 on the cable network.

Jessica Alba gives birth to a girl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Add "baby guru" to Jessica Alba's resume.

The "Love Guru" co-star and her new husband, Cash Warren, are new parents, her publicist Brad Cafarelli said Monday in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The 27-year-old actress gave birth to a healthy baby girl—Honor Marie Warren—on Saturday, Cafarelli said. He didn't provide further details.

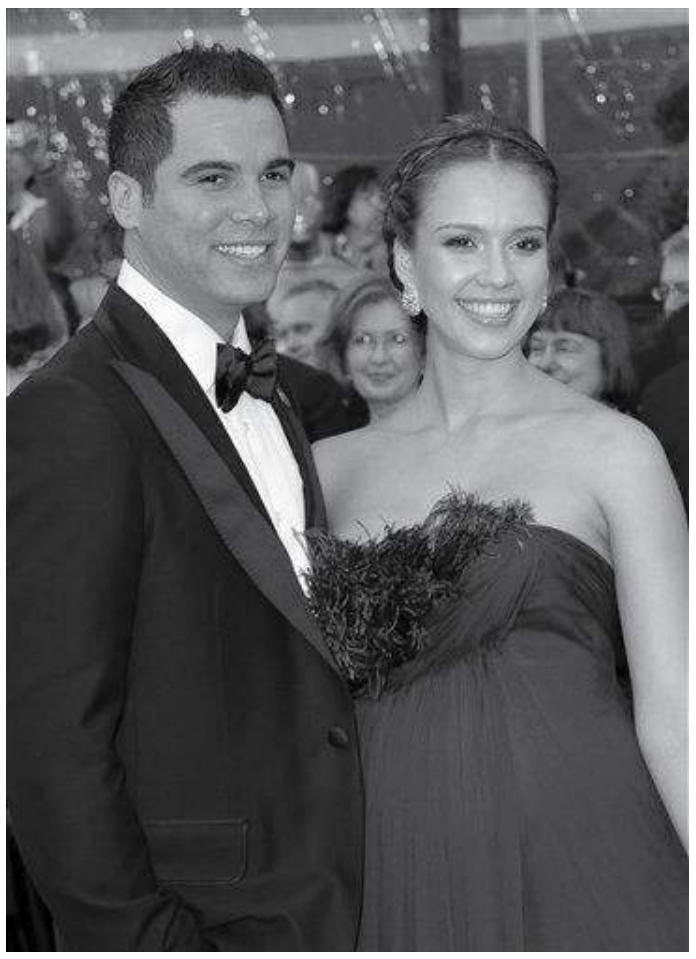
Alba and Warren became engaged in late December following her announcement that she's expecting a baby with Warren, 31. They met on the set of the 2005 film "The Fantastic Four," which costarred Alba as the Invisible Woman and employed Warren as a director's assistant.

Outside of motherhood, this summer Alba joins Mike Myers in "The Love Guru" and will play a lingerie saleswoman who helps turn a loser's life around in "Meet Bill." Earlier this year, FHM readers magazine readers rated Alba the No. 3 sexiest woman alive (with "Transformers" star Megan Fox claiming the top spot).

What kind of mother will Alba be?

"I don't want to be my child's best friend," she recently told Fit Pregnancy magazine. "I want to be a mom. But I do want my child to come to me when they have problems and need to talk, so it's going to be about treading that line."

Alba's recently appeared in "Awake," "Good Luck Chuck" and "The Ten." She first gained fame as an action star on TV's "Dark Angel."



AP

In this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Cash Warren and Jessica Alba arrive at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

AP

In this Feb. 3, 2008, file photo, actress Anne Hathaway, right, sits with her boyfriend, Rafaello Follieri, at the Miss Sixty fashion show during fashion week in New York. New York.

Charity run by Hathaway's boyfriend is investigated

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The state is investigating the charitable foundation of Anne Hathaway's boyfriend, a spokesman for the attorney general said Monday.

Italian businessman Raffaello Follieri, 29, who dates the "Devil Wears Prada" star, heads the Follieri Foundation, a charity whose work includes vaccinating children in Third World countries.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is heading the probe, Cuomo spokesman Matt Glazer said. He said he could not comment further on the ongoing investigation.

The Foundation has not filed IRS tax disclosure forms required from charities, according to a review of records by the Associated Press.

The New York Post, which first reported the investigation, said Hathaway was previously on the foundation's board of directors, but it was unclear when or for how long.

"There is an investigation going on that does not involve Anne," said Stephen Huvane, Hathaway's publicist, in an e-mail. "She is no longer a board member of the Follieri Foundation. Other than that we will not be commenting."

The number for a Follieri at his Manhattan apartment was disconnected.

Pamela to part with car for PETA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pamela Anderson may have a need for speed, but her favorite charity has a need for funds.

That's why the former "Baywatch" babe is selling her prized Dodge Viper and donating the proceeds to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"I've been working with PETA for 15 years," Anderson told The Associated Press. "They're kind of my ethical advisers. With them, I see actual results."

The 40-year-old actress recently held a private estate sale to benefit the animal organization, and she's planning to personally oversee the sale of her 2000 Viper, which she customized herself with white racing stripes. The car plays a prominent role in Anderson's forthcoming E! series, "Pam: Girl on the Loose," but she admitted it was dangerous for her to own such a high-performance vehicle.

"I'm a terrible driver," she said. "It's just not a good idea for me to have a Viper."

The car will be among the offerings at Julien's Auctions' Summer Entertainment Sale of Hollywood memorabilia, to be held June 21 and 22 at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. Other items available include Alfred Hitchcock's driver's license, personal snapshots of Marilyn Monroe and Sammy Davis Jr. and an original "Ben Hur" script signed by Charlton Heston.

Alanis Morissette continues channeling her anger

NEW YORK (AP)—Alanis Morissette is not the person Rob Thomas thought she was.

Matchbox Twenty and its lead singer once saw her as a Zenlike soul, Morissette told Newsweek for its issue hitting newsstands Monday.

"He kept saying that whenever I wasn't with him, his imagining was that I was levitating somewhere, meditating," the Canadian singer said.

But then, "we had the most debaucherous, entertaining, hysterical time together, so they were the first to say that their perception of me was a little off," she told the magazine. She did not elaborate on the debaucherous details.

Morissette is in the process of releasing her latest album "Flavors of Entanglement" and writing her first book, a compilation of essays, photographs and mood-boosting exercises.

She uses writing as an outlet for her anger, which she said is not directed toward ex-boyfriend Ryan Reynolds. The actor recently became engaged to actress Scarlett Johansson.

"I'm really happy for him," she said.

Wife disappoints husband only when she speaks

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am happily married to the most wonderful woman in the world. I feel blessed to have her in my life and to be a part of hers.

I am not an elitist; I like to think I am a humble person. But I do believe in correct grammar, proper pronunciation and the eloquent employment of words in conversation. My wife did not have the benefit of an upbringing in which these were practiced. She comes from the "ain't got no" school of speaking.

I can accept this at home, but in business as a corporate executive, I am embarrassed by her low verbal skills.

I would never hurt or shame my wife by correcting her in front of anyone. The obvious answer is to bring it up in private. I did that, but she is not inclined to improve her word skills. She has mentioned a friend who tried to help her in this endeavor, but it went nowhere. I wish I could do something. Any ideas on how I can help?

WORDSMITH IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WORDSMITH: The most important line in your letter is the one in which you say you have spoken to your wife about the problem, "but she is not inclined to improve her word skills." You might try one more time, and tell her you're afraid her poor English will affect your chances for promotion and you would appreciate it if she would take some courses in English grammar and literature. But you can't force her.

You say you have a happy marriage and your wife is the most wonderful woman in the world. Nobody has everything. Love her for who she is and stop worrying about how others perceive her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend I'll call "Rose" who lives in a senior complex. Somehow she discovered that her key will fit random apartments in the complex, and she goes in when her neighbors are not present. I have told Rose that what she's doing isn't right, but she says "they all rent from the same person," so she's doing nothing wrong. She does not go in for any reason other than to nose around. Sometimes she asks a friend to go with her on these little trips. What do you think about this?

PUZZLED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR PUZZLED: Because everyone rents from the same person does not give ANYONE -- including the landlord -- the right to enter someone's apartment without permission. Rose is trespassing, and it's against the law.

It doesn't make sense that her key fits "random apartments" unless she has somehow gotten hold of a pass key. Management should be informed that their security system has been breached because the tenants have a right to privacy.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have had terrible luck lately at fast-food drive-through restaurants. I eat on a budget, and I'm getting tired of pulling away only to find my order is incomplete -- or worse, inedible.

My husband says I should check the order before I pull away, but I'm afraid it would be rude because it holds up the line. What do you recommend?

STALE BURGER BUNS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR S.B.B.: Fast-food restaurants do not always have experienced help. That's why it makes sense to check your order before you leave as your husband suggested -- and doing so is not "rude." However, there is no excuse for a customer being served stale or improperly cooked food. If that happened to me, I would complain to the manager, and if it wasn't corrected, I'd take my business to another establishment.

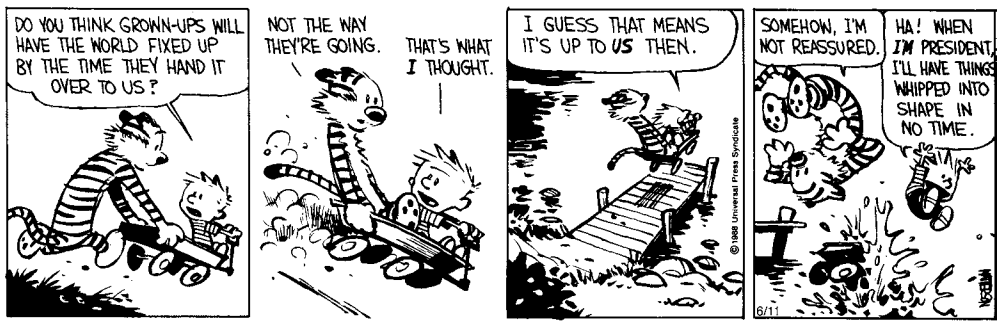
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DO YOU THINK GROWN-UPS WILL HAVE THE WORLD FIXED UP BY THE TIME THEY HAND IT OVER TO US?
NOT THE WAY THEY'RE GOING.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
I GUESS THAT MEANS IT'S UP TO US THEN.
SOMEHOW, I'M NOT REASSURED.
HA! WHEN I'M PRESIDENT, I'LL HAVE THINGS WHIPPED INTO SHAPE IN NO TIME.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
6/11

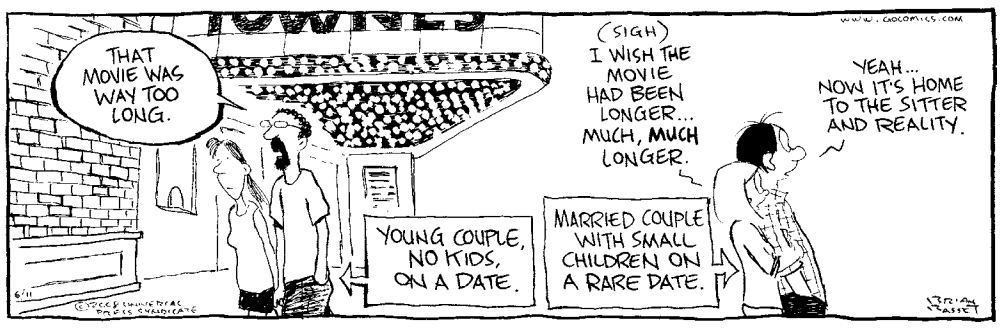
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HEY, GEEZER!
I HEAR YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE IS COMING WITH A SMOKE ALARM!
THAT SPIDER LOOKS LIKE IT'S LAUGHING
GET ME A LADDER AND A BAT
JIM DAVIS 6-11
www.garfield.com
© 2008 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THAT MOVIE WAS WAY TOO LONG.
(SIGH) I WISH THE MOVIE HAD BEEN LONGER... MUCH, MUCH LONGER.
YEAH... NOW IT'S HOME TO THE SITTER AND REALITY.
YOUNG COUPLE, NO KIDS, ON A DATE.
MARRIED COUPLE WITH SMALL CHILDREN ON A RARE DATE.
www.CAGOMICS.COM
6/11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

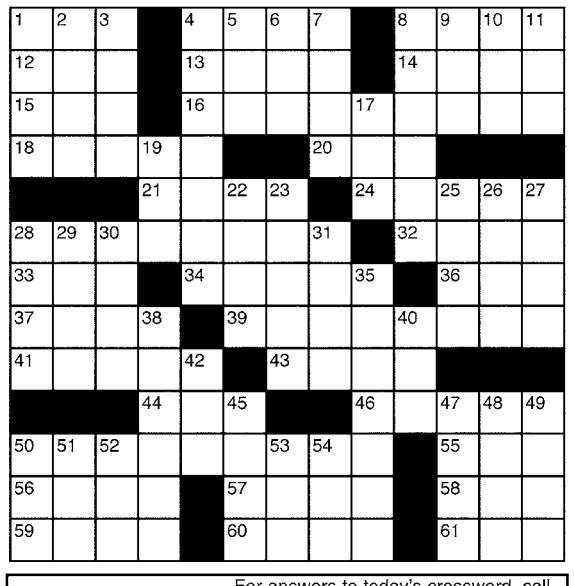
ACROSS
1 Little demon
4 Flower holder
8 Terrible guy?
12 Vast expanse
13 Puts in the chiller
14 Cleopatra's water
15 Swabbie's prop
16 Second mate's kid?
18 Pundit
20 Addressee
21 On
24 Fire evidence
28 "Hurry!"
32 Sicilian spouter
33 Bagel topping
34 Mysterious characters
36 High peak
37 Mosque bigwig
39 Resign
41 Object (to)
43 Valhalla VIP
44 Old man
46 Waste time
50 Actress Beacham
55 Verily
56 Gilpin of "Frasier"
57 Frau's mister
58 Uncouth
59 Farm fraction
60 Dregs
61 Raggedy doll

DOWN
1 Doctrines
2 Catcall?
3 One of the Three Bears
4 Guest
5 Performance
6 Catch a glimpse of
7 Catch a glimpse of
8 Bury
9 Sundial 7
10 The whole enchilada
11 Simpsons' neighbor Flanders
17 Lettuce variety
19 "You are here" illustration
22 Responsibility
23 Pony or bean
25 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
26 Recognize
27 Deserve
28 Went home, in a way
29 Heavy book
30 Midterm, e.g.
31 Prepared to drive
35 Arachnophobes' worry
38 Backyard "dessert"?
40 "CSI" evidence
42 "Go, team!"
45 Wonka's creator
47 Vega's constellation
48 Slender
49 Gape
50 Resort
51 Sleuth (Sl.)
52 Mess up
53 Born
54 Rage

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	I	D	■	I	D	E	S	■	K	E	G
L	U	L	U	■	N	E	W	T	■	N	A	Y
B	E	L	L	T	O	W	E	R	■	E	R	R
■	■	■	C	U	N	Y	■	O	B	E	S	E
O	C	T	E	T	■	■	E	L	A	H	■	■
M	A	R	T	■	B	E	L	L	H	O	P	S
I	R	A	■	A	R	E	A	S	■	L	A	W
T	A	C	O	B	E	L	L	■	F	E	T	A
■	■	K	I	S	T	■	■	B	O	S	S	Y
P	A	B	L	O	■	S	A	R	I	■	■	■
E	R	A	■	R	I	N	G	A	B	E	L	L
N	I	L	■	B	L	U	E	■	L	E	I	A
S	A	L	■	S	O	B	S	■	E	K	E	S

Yesterday's answer 6-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shia LaBeouf, 22; Joshua Jackson, 30; Hugh Laurie, 49; Gene Wilder, 75

Happy Birthday: It's a year to explore and to make serious decisions about your future. You can fit activities, people and hobbies that you used to enjoy so much back into your life. This is a great time to find solutions, so do what you know in your heart is right for you. Your numbers are 3, 14, 26, 35, 44, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give a thought to how you are going to do something, simply start the process. Talk to whoever can direct you in making an effort to reach your destination. An opportunity will arise from someone you ask for directions. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Expect someone to talk big but not deliver unless you are pushy. Travel can bring about an opportunity regarding professional goals but only if you are prepared to make a move. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Work from home or take time off to spend with family. Don't overspend on children, friends or your lover, trying to win favors or impress. Offer your time, not money. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Taking a wait-and-see approach will be beneficial. Don't get emotional regarding work-related matters. It will make you appear less professional and could alter your chances for advancement. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Talk to people who head up fundraisers or event planners or those who have a handle on something that interests you. A creative partnership can form if you contribute ideas to a cause supported by someone influential. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use whatever tactics work. Offer something that is too good to turn down and you will end up in a power position. Networking will pay off and help change your professional partnership status. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you procrastinate now, you will lose the respect of the people who mean the most to you. Travel or gathering information about what you are trying to accomplish will come easy, but only if you do the work yourself. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your plans more realistic. Take on a home project that will help raise the value of your property or of something you own. An investment will pay off if you go about it creatively. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Send out your resume, go for interviews or pick up skills that will enhance your earning potential. There is money to be made but you may have to travel. Don't rule out any opportunity until you have checked out all aspects of it. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't feel pressured to give in to someone just to keep the peace. Emotional blackmail can be expected which should make you question the motives of whoever you are dealing with. If something doesn't add up, don't move forward. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may be playing games with you. By changing his or her mind, you may become confused or irrational about the real reasons behind existing problems. Don't be blinded by love when it may not be good for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't give in to demands that will be impossible for you to fulfill. Someone may cause you worry by giving you an ultimatum. Don't fret, be honest and give what you can. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, creative and are easily bored. You are thirsty for knowledge and to do good things for everyone around you.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	6	1				
	4				3			
6		5				4		
5		6				1		
7			2			6		
	2				9	5		
		2	9	3	8	7	5	
						8	1	3
							6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	2	3	9	6	8	4	7
9	8	4	7	5	1	2	3	6
7	3	6	4	8	2	9	1	5
5	6	9	8	4	3	1	7	2
8	4	7	1	2	5	6	9	3
2	1	3	6	7	9	5	8	4
6	2	1	9	3	7	4	5	8
4	7	5	2	1	8	3	6	9
3	9	8	5	6	4	7	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/10

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REPTILE ANATOMY **Solution: 8 letters**

L	E	G	S	H	B	A	C	K	B	O	N	E	S	V
T	E	E	T	H	T	C	A	V	I	T	Y	Y	E	E
O	V	N	I	K	S	U	M	D	I	G	I	R	N	M
N	I	E	N	I	R	C	O	D	N	E	T	O	V	I
G	T	T	E	D	(B)	K	U	M	E	E	L	T	I	L
U	C	I	S	D	(O)	F	F	S	B	G	A	A	R	S
E	U	C	O	N	(D)	P	L	R	E	G	L	R	O	I
K	D	S	P	A	(Y)	L	A	U	T	S	L	I	N	M
A	O	E	H	L	I	T	G	R	I	O	I	P	M	R
N	R	L	A	G	E	Y	E	S	T	D	G	S	E	E
S	P	T	G	S	P	A	L	A	T	E	A	E	N	D
N	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	R	T	I
E	R	U	S	S	E	L	I	D	O	C	O	R	C	P
C	I	T	A	P	E	H	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	E
K	I	D	N	E	Y	R	A	L	U	C	S	U	M	N

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 6/11

Alligators, Backbone, Body, Camouflage, Cavity, Crocodiles, Eggs, Endocrine, Environment, Epidermis, Esophagus, Eyes, Fluid, Genetics, Gills, Gland, Hepatic, Kidney, Legs, Membrane, Mouth, Muscular, Neck, Palate, Reproductive, Respiratory, Rigid, Skin, Slime, Snake, Teeth, Temperature, Tetrapod, Tongue, Turtles, Vertebrates

Yesterday's Answer: Inflate

Treasury 5 is here! Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword. 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

FOR SALE

BUD'S BAR For Sale
$15,000 all inclusive. Stop by to see for yourself. Contact LES @ 898-4866

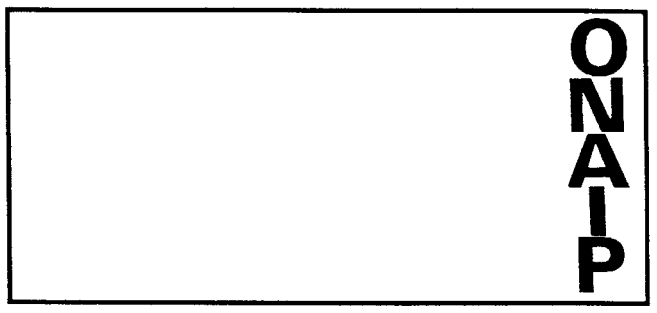
WHATZIT Solution:
Upright piano

MODERN CONSTRUCTION CO.
WE DO ALL KINDS OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS!
CALL 285-2649 • FREE ESTIMATE

PICK UP plus BOAT and GERERATOR for SALE
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235-NEWS

The Saipan Tribune now offers
Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…

3-LINER AD $25
3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55

Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

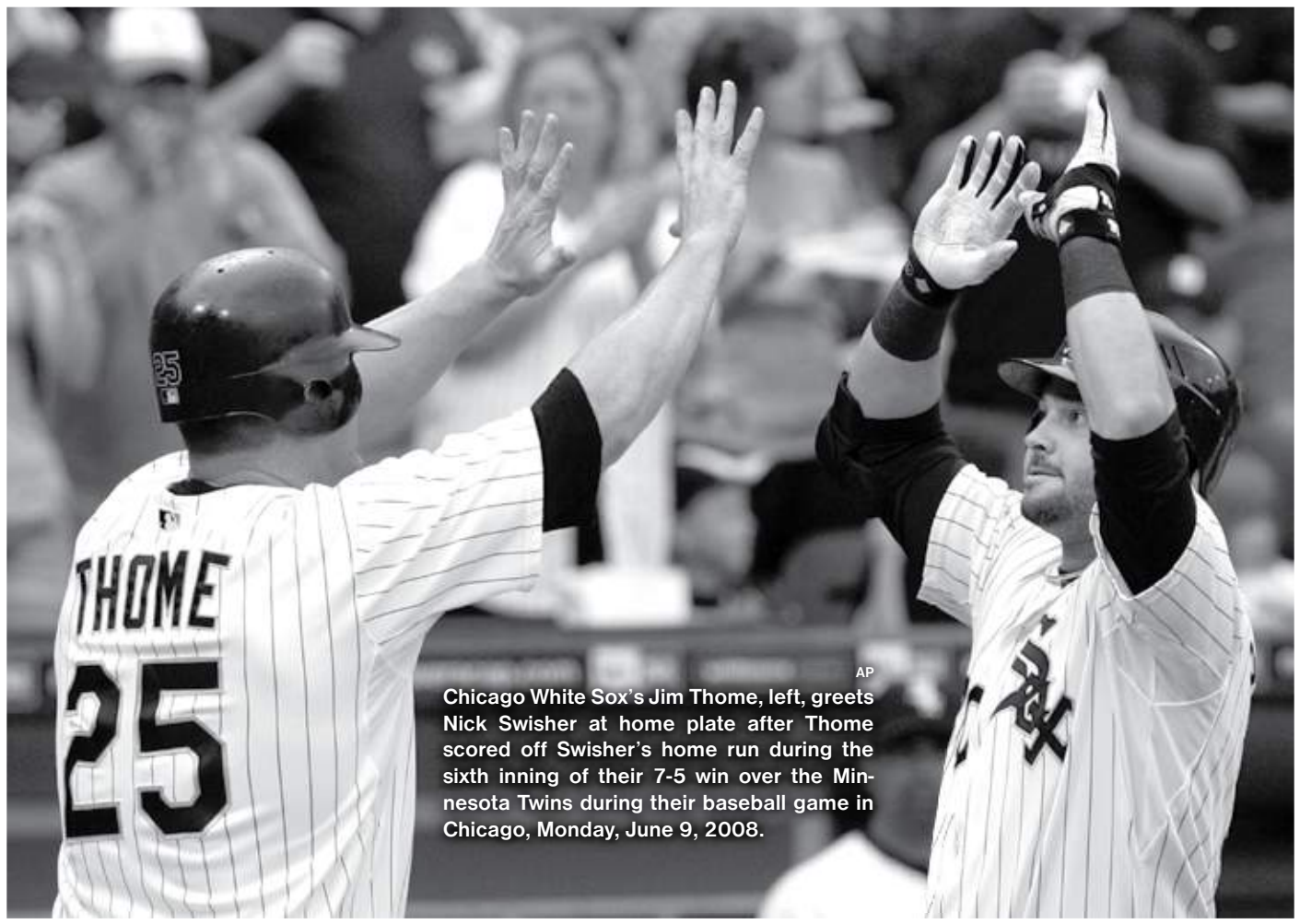
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Swisher homers from both sides, White Sox beat Twins for sweep

CHICAGO (AP)—Switch-hitter Nick Swisher homered from both sides of the plate and the Chicago White Sox completed a dominant four-game sweep, beating the Minnesota Twins 7-5 in the American League on Monday.

Paul Konerko hit a go-ahead home run as Chicago won its seventh straight game, all at home. The White Sox outscored the Twins 40-15 in the series.

The White Sox trailed 5-4 when Cabrera doubled against Matt Guerrier (3-2) to start a three-run rally in the seventh. Alexei Ramirez singled and Carlos Quentin tied it with a RBI grounder. Konerko followed with his eighth home run of the season.



AP
Chicago White Sox's Jim Thome, left, greets Nick Swisher at home plate after Thome scored off Swisher's home run during the sixth inning of their 7-5 win over the Minnesota Twins during their baseball game in Chicago, Monday, June 9, 2008.

Royals 3, Yankees 2

At New York, Jose Guillen finished off his big series against New York in style, hitting a tiebreaking solo home run on an 0-2 pitch off longtime closer Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning to lift Kansas City.

Guillen went 9-for-16 in the four-game series with four homers and 10 RBIs, and also scored six runs to help the Royals gain a split.

Yasuhiko Yabuta (1-0) got Bobby Abreu to ground out with runners on first and second to end the eighth and earn his first major league win.

Mike Mussina, bidding to become the first 10-game winner in the AL, allowed two runs and seven hits in eight innings. He is 8-1 with a 3.11 ERA in his last 10 starts.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Miguel Cairo's safety squeeze after Jason Frasor walked the bases loaded in the 10th inning lifted Seattle over Toronto.

Frasor (1-1) walked Raul Ibanez leading off the 10th. Pinch-runner Willie Bloomquist stole second and Adrian Beltre struck. Frasor then intentionally walked Jose Lopez and walked Wladimir Balentien to load the bases.

Brian Wolfe came on to face Cairo, who bunted back to the mound, scoring Bloomquist.

Indians 8, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Ryan Garko and Kelly Shoppach both homered in the first two innings against Dontrelle Willis, helping Cleveland build an eight-run lead in a victory over Detroit.

The Indians kept Cliff Lee on the mound after a 57-minute rain delay in the fifth inning and he became the AL's first 10-game winner. Lee (10-1) allowed two runs, six hits and two walks while striking out five over five innings.

Willis (0-1) gave up eight earned runs—matching a career high—three hits and five walks in 1 1-3 innings.

He made his second start since going on the disabled list with a hyperextended right knee. In Willis' last start, he didn't give up a run, but walked five in four innings.

Rays 13, Angels 4

At Anaheim, California, Evan Longoria had a pair of solo homers and an RBI double, Dioner Navarro drove in four runs with four hits as Tampa Bay trounced the Angeles.

Edwin Jackson (4-5) allowed four runs and 10 hits in seven innings, striking out two and walking one. The right-hander is scheduled to begin serving a five-game suspension on June 13 for his part in a bench-clearing brawl with the Boston Red Sox on Thursday at Fenway Park.

Longoria, Willy Aybar and Navarro hit consecutive homers in the second inning off Joe Saunders (9-3), helping manager Joe Maddon get his first win in Anaheim as a big league manager after eight losses at the "Big A."

Diamondbacks 5, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Pirates took advantage of a rattled Randy Johnson and a reversed home run call to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Johnson (4-3) limited the Pirates to six singles and struck out three in 5 2-3 innings but was hurt by three errors—including one by himself. He was also hurt by wildness; of the five batters he walked, four scored.

Zach Duke (4-4) gave up two runs, including one Mark Reynolds homer and nearly another, in six-plus innings.

Arizona manager Bob Melvin was ejected in the second by home plate umpire Jeff Kellogg, after Reynolds hit a ball that a fan leaned several feet over the railing to catch. It was initially called a home run before the umpires reversed the call, sending Reynolds to second with a double.

Reds 9, Marlins 4

At Miami, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 600th home run, completing his long ascent to becoming the sixth player in history to reach that milestone, as Cincinnati downed Florida.

The Cincinnati Reds outfielder homered off Florida lefty Mark Hendrickson in the first inning. Griffey joined Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Willie Mays and Sammy Sosa at that mark.

The 38-year-old homered with Jerry Hairston on third and one out. The left-handed swinger launched a 3-1 pitch 413 feet into the right-field seats. He received a standing ovation from the relatively sparse crowd and responded by coming out of the Reds dugout and tipping his helmet to the fans.

Paul Bako had his first career multihomer game—three-run and two-run shots—and Brandon Phillips added a solo homer in support of Edinson Volquez (9-2), who gave up three runs in six innings.

Giants 3, Nationals 2

At Washington, Ray Durham, Randy Winn and Bengie Molina had consecutive hits as San Francisco came alive in the fifth inning against a starter making a one-game visit from minor league Columbus.

Matt Cain (3-4) allowed one run and eight hits over 6 1-3 innings to get his first victory since May 13 for the Giants, who outscored the Nationals by a combined 22-4 to complete their first four-game sweep of the franchise since 1994.

Tyler Clippard (0-1), whose previous big league experience was a 3-1 record in six starts for the New York Yankees last year, allowed three runs and five hits with four walks and six strikeouts in 4 1-3 innings in his Nationals debut.

San Francisco has won six of eight overall, and its seven-game road winning streak is its longest since 2003.

On Sunday, the Giants used a four-run fifth to chase Garrett Mock, who was making his major league debut because of an injury to Odalis Perez.

Bears release RB Cedric Benson after 2nd arrest

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—The Chicago Bears thought Cedric Benson would be their next great running back. He'll instead go down as one of their biggest disappointments.

The Bears waived Benson on Monday after his second alcohol-related arrest in a month, ending a rocky three-season tenure in which he failed to live up to expectations after starring at Texas.

"Cedric displayed a pattern of behavior we will not tolerate," general manager Jerry Angelo said in a statement. "As I said this past weekend, you have to protect your job. Everyone in this organization is held accountable for their actions."

The troubled running back, who didn't participate in organized team activities Monday after telling the Chicago Tribune he would, issued an apology through sports attorney David Cornwell while maintaining his innocence.

"I apologize for making the poor decision to drink and drive during the early morning of Saturday, June 7th," Benson said in a statement. "Given the incident last month, it was a particularly bad decision. I have no excuse for this lack of judgment. Though I strongly believe that I am not guilty of any crime, I realize that the public and the Bears organization hold me to higher standard. Though my local attorneys will continue to work hard to prove my innocence, I confess to using poor judgment. Please accept my deepest apology."

The Bears had already made it clear they were losing patience with Benson when they drafted Tulane's Matt Forte in the second round in April. Three ineffective, injury-plagued years during which Benson at times annoyed teammates with blunt comments left management looking for another running back. And that was before the recent brushes with the law.

"When individual priorities overshadow team goals, we suffer the consequences as a team," Angelo said. "Those who fail to understand the importance of 'team' will not play for the Chicago Bears."

Benson's rocky relationship with the Bears took a turn for the worse when he was arrested on a drunken driving charge in Austin, Texas, early Saturday after failing a field sobriety test. The former first-round draft pick was released on bond.

He was also arrested May 5 and charged with boating while intoxicated and resisting arrest on a lake near Austin. Both cases are pending.

Benson's agent Eugene Parker did not return calls seeking comment, but his attorney, Sam Bassett in Austin, said Monday he was disappointed the Bears waived Benson so quickly. Although Bassett said he believes Benson to be innocent of DWI, "he knows he made a mistake going out drinking and driving."

Bassett said Saturday that the former Texas star had a few drinks with dinner, but didn't think he was intoxicated, although he acknowledged his client would "probably be in trouble with his team."

Benson was pulled over for running a red light and refused to take a breath test or provide blood samples Saturday, Austin police spokeswoman Veneza Aguinaga said.

Bassett, however, said Benson thought the light was yellow when he went through around 2 a.m. but stopped immediately when police appeared, and he added that Benson told him he wasn't speeding or driving recklessly.

Bassett also said Benson offered to provide police a blood sample for testing and believes video of the arrest will show his client did well in the field sobriety test, although he hasn't seen it yet.

Texas law allows a driver to take a blood or breath test for alcohol content, Bassett said. When Benson offered to take a blood test, the arresting officer told him he'd have to take a breath test, which Benson refused, Bassett said.

Bassett said he has requested a copy of Benson's arrest videotape and hoped to watch it with a representative of the NFL and or the Bears, as early as this week.

"They pulled the trigger early," Bassett said of the Bears. "It's a disappointment to me."

A few promising glimpses aside, Benson hasn't lived up to the hype that accompanied him to the NFL when the Bears took him with the fourth pick in 2005. He has 1,593 yards and 10 touchdowns while averaging 3.8 yards a carry for the Bears after running for more than 5,500 yards and 64 touchdowns at Texas.

Benson also has a June 30 court date for the May arrest while operating a 30-foot boat on Lake Travis—an incident in which authorities used pepper spray to subdue him. No court date had been set for the latest incident as of Monday afternoon.

With Benson gone, Forte has a big opportunity.

"I'm not going to sit here and doubt myself or my talent," Forte said before Benson was waived. "I believe that I can come in and play."

Suns introduce new head coach Terry Porter

PHOENIX (AP)—It didn't take Terry Porter long to understand the expectations facing him as he takes over the Phoenix Suns.

One of the first questions at Porter's introductory news conference on Monday came from Phil Gordon, a Suns fan who also happens to be the mayor of Phoenix.

"Coach, are we going to have a world champion team this year?" Gordon asked.

As many in the US Airways Center practice court laughed, general manager Steve Kerr turned to Porter and said, "The chair's hot already, isn't it?"

Gordon's question has dogged the Suns throughout their 40-year history. Though they have been among the NBA's most successful franchises—the Suns' .558 winning percentage ranks fourth in the league—the Suns have not won a title.

After failing to bring home a trophy with Mike D'Antoni's up-tempo style, the Suns hope the 45-year-old Porter will provide a new approach, combining a fastbreak offense with a stronger emphasis on defense.

After reaching the Western Conference finals in 2005 and 2006, Phoenix was eliminated in the second round in 2007 and made a first-round exit this spring. But Porter embraced the high expectations.

"I think it is a championship-caliber team," said Porter, who reportedly agreed to a three-year contract worth about $7 million. "I think they have some pieces in place that have obviously competed at that level over the last four years."

Porter inherits a talented but aging roster that features former MVPs Steve Nash and Shaquille O'Neal, along one of the league's best front-line players in Amare Stoudemire.

Porter comes to the Suns from the Detroit Pistons, where he served as an assistant coach. His hiring ends a monthlong search for a successor to D'Antoni, who left last month to coach the New York Knicks.

Under D'Antoni, the Suns employed an attack predicated on firing shots in seven seconds or less, a style that won many admirers. But the Suns' inability to play consistent defense haunted them, especially in the playoffs.

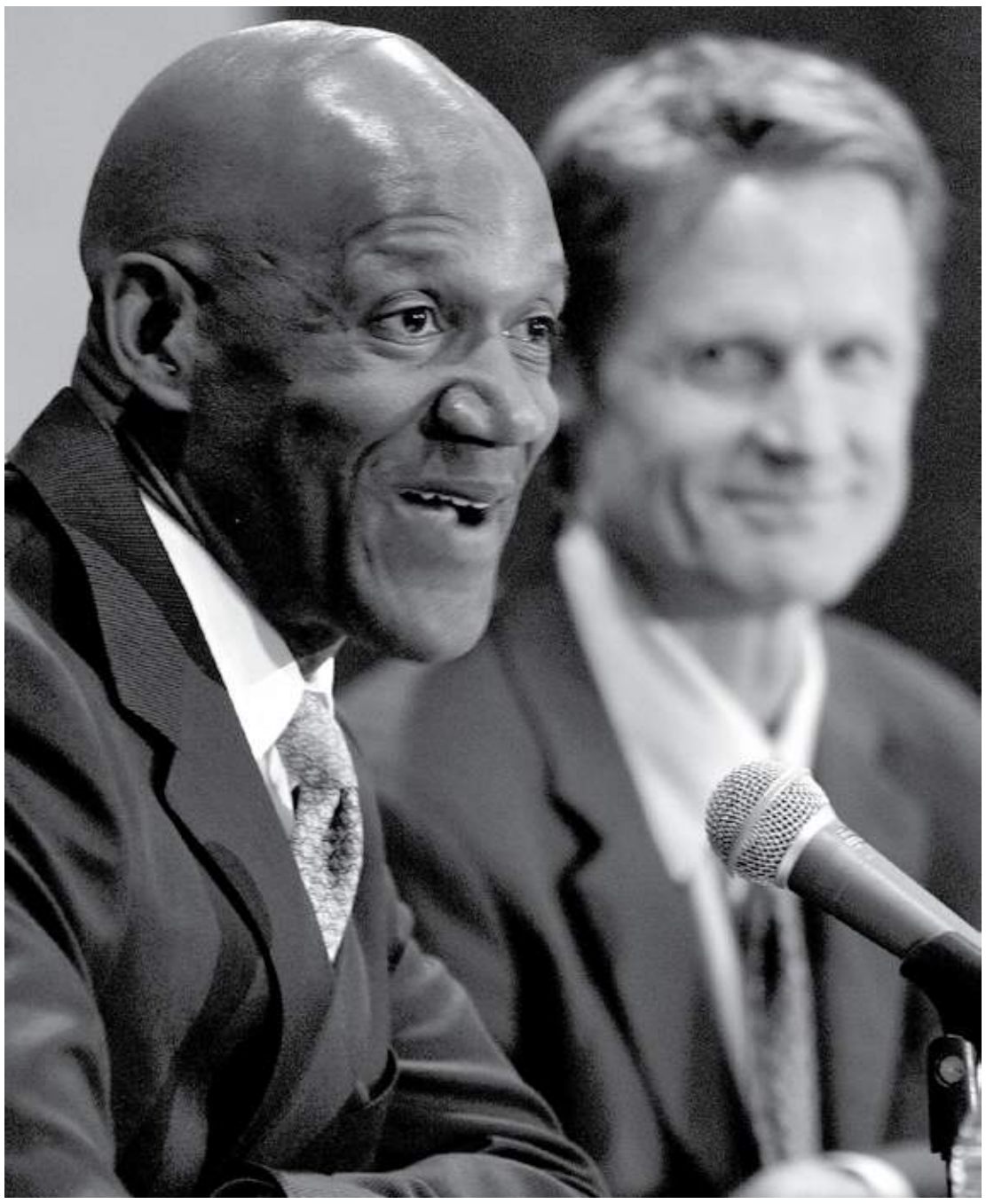
Kerr said he believes Porter will help toughen the Suns' defense without sacrificing their appealing offense.

"Obviously, there will be differences and there will be nuances," Kerr said. "But the key for us was having somebody who would be balanced on both sides of the ball, who wanted to continue to push the ball and maintain our up-tempo style but could also help us come in and improve defensively. That's one of the reasons we felt like he was the right fit."

Porter went 71-93 (.433) as Milwaukee's head coach from 2003-05, leading the Bucks into the playoffs in his first year. The Bucks led the Eastern Conference in scoring in 2003-04, averaging 98 points per game while conceding 97.

Porter promised to shore up Phoenix's defense, and he said it would begin on the practice floor.

"I will be hands-on when it comes to the defense," Porter said. "When you talk about defense, there's got to be a desire there, and there's got to be a lot of repetition."



AP

Newly appointed Phoenix Suns basketball head coach Terry Porter, left, addresses the media as Suns General Manager Steve Kerr looks on Monday, June 9, 2008 in Phoenix.

The 6-foot-3 Porter played guard in the NBA for 17 seasons, retiring with 15,586 points after the 2001-02 season. Kerr teamed with Porter in San Antonio in 1999-2000 and 2000-01, and the two were offseason golf partners.

But Kerr stressed that he hadn't turned to Porter because he's a friend.

"This is more based on respect than it is on friendship," Kerr said. "You look at his career, he's always been a winner."

Porter emerged during a national search by Kerr and David Griffin, senior vice president for basketball operations. Last week, Kerr said the list had been pared to four—Porter and assistants Elston Turner of Houston, Tyrone Corbin of Utah and Mike Budenholzer of San Antonio.

Porter was the only one of the final four with head coaching experience.

"When 'Griff" and I finished this process, we looked at each other and said, 'Terry's the guy,' " said Kerr, who will meet with Porter to name a coaching staff in the next few weeks.

Porter is the Suns' 13th coach and their seventh since 1993, when they made their last NBA Finals appearance.

Porter's predecessors also faced pressure to win an NBA title, although few heard it directly from the mayor. Porter said Gordon's question didn't faze him.

"That's just part of the community, right?" Porter said. "Everybody wants to win a championship. And there's nothing wrong with that. You have to embrace that, along with the players embracing that."

Dumars says Curry will be Pistons' next head coach

DETROIT (AP)—Michael Curry will be the Detroit Pistons head coach next season after only one year as an assistant. A former teammate is not surprised.

Curry is set be introduced as Detroit's new coach at a news conference Tuesday, Pistons president of basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Associated Press.

Dallas Mavericks guard Jerry Stackhouse, who played with Curry in Detroit, said Curry was like a player-coach during his career on the court.

"It was just a matter of time," Stackhouse said a telephone interview with the AP on Monday. "Everybody who knew Michael from his playing days knew this is where he would end up.

"He's going to do great for Detroit because he already has great rapport with those players, who will give him a different kind of respect because he played in the league."

Curry was an assistant last season in Detroit under for Flip Saunders, who was fired last week.

The Pistons and Curry agreed on a three-year deal worth $2.5 million a season. The team holds an option for a fourth season.

Before going to the bench, Curry was the NBDL's vice president of player development following a playing career that started as an undrafted free agent during the 1993-94 season in Philadelphia and ended during the 2004-05 season with the Indiana Pacers.

He averaged 4 1/2 points, 1.6 rebounds and 20 minutes a game over his career, which included two stops in Detroit along with stints in Milwaukee, Toronto and Washington. His defense and leadership kept him in the league despite averaging less than seven points a season.

"I think he has a lot of good qualifications," Phoenix Suns coach Terry Porter, who was a Pistons assistant with Curry last season, told the AP. "It's a pretty good jump going from assistant to head coach, but like Stackhouse said, he's been a player-coach most of his life.

"I don't know what his staff will be like, but that's important when you don't have a lot of experience."

The 39-year-old Curry played with Dumars more than a decade ago and with current Pistons Chauncey Billups, Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince during the 2002-03 season, when the franchise started its active streak of appearances in the Eastern Conference finals. He also played with Detroit center Rasheed Wallace in Washington.

Curry might not coach all of those players next season because Dumars publicly put his whole team, other than Rodney Stuckey, on the trading block last week when he fired Saunders.

Curry played professionally in Germany, Belgium and France as well as the CBA and USBL after he was a standout at Georgia Southern.

Toward the end of his NBA career, Curry was president of the players' association and earned a masters degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. The native of Augusta, Ga., is married and has three children, including Deon, a wide receiver at Michigan State.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA source: Bulls offer coaching job to Del Negro

CHICAGO (AP)—Vinny Del Negro has been offered the Chicago Bulls head coaching job, according to a person within the league who is familiar with the situation. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because an announcement had not been made Monday. An official announcement, which could come this week, would end a nearly two-month search that included courtships of Mike D'Antoni and Doug Collins. Del Negro, the assistant general manager of the Phoenix Suns who has never been a head coach, would take over a team that went from 49 wins to 49 losses this past season and missed the playoffs after making the second round in 2007. The Bulls have the first pick in the draft later this month. A sluggish start cost coach Scott Skiles his job in December, and interim coach Jim Boylan was fired April 17. Former Minnesota coach Dwane Casey and Sacramento assistant Chuck Person also recently interviewed. Messages left for Del Negro and Bulls GM John Paxson were not immediately returned.

Wizards' Arenas opts out of final year of contract

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gilbert Arenas lived up to his word and opted out of the final year of his contract, the Washington Wizards said Monday. The move had been long expected. Arenas has repeatedly said he would forgo the final year of his six-year, $65 million deal so that he could re-sign with the team for an even larger amount. Arenas can begin negotiating with any team on July 1. While he has expressed a desire to remain with the Wizards, he has also said he won't return unless the team also re-signs Antawn Jamison, who is also set to become a free agent. Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld has said he wants to re-sign both Arenas and Jamison. Arenas, a three-time All-Star, missed most of last season after two operations on his left knee. He has averaged 22.8 points, 5.5 assists and 4.2 rebounds in his seven-season NBA career.

Wade: No rehab problems so far

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade still believes his knee will be ready for the Beijing Olympics. The Miami Heat guard, who missed the final 21 games of last season because of chronic soreness in his surgically repaired left knee, said Sunday that he's been playing 5-on-5 games for about a week with "no problems." Wade is spending much of his offseason rehabilitating in Chicago, with eyes on both getting a spot on the Beijing-bound team—USA Basketball will finalize its Olympic roster later this month—and ensuring that he's fully healthy when the Heat open training camp in late September. "Just trying to get my timing back because I haven't played since March," Wade said at a promotion for the annual Zo's Summer Groove, a charity event in South Florida that Heat teammate Alonzo Mourning has asked Wade to help headline this July. "But 5-on-5 went well and I'm looking forward to next week, going back to my second week of 5-on-5 and the competition picking up more. I'm doing my job of trying to bring more competition down to Chicago."

10th Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend set

Pacific Islands Club will host the 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend on June 14 and 15 at the San Antonio landmark resort's sand courts.

At stake will be prizes for the top teams in the men and women's doubles as well as the winner of the co-ed four-person competition.

The doubles event will be played on Saturday, while co-ed competition starts on Sunday.

The co-ed competition requires a female and a 17-and-under player on court all the time.

Doubles teams would have to pay a $25 entrance fee, while $15 will be assessed each player for the co-ed competition with a maximum of five players per team.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend will be served this June 14 and 15 at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association get a five percent discount, while players under 17 years old will have a discount of 10 percent.

Entries must be submitted before 6pm on June 13.

Aside from exciting volleyball action, players that sign up also get complimentary drinks courtesy of Pacific Trading Co., and waterpark passes for each of the two days of the tournament.

Champions in the doubles and co-ed events will receive cash prizes that would be determined by the number of entries in the tournament.

The 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend is sponsored by PIC, PTC, NMIVA, Gatorade, Pepsi, and Miller Lite.

If anyone is interested in signing up for this event, please contact Sergei or John by telephone at 235-6231 extensions 5147 and 5148, e-mail sportsmanager@picsaipan.com, or stop by the SEA Office at Pacific Islands Club. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Women's golf June ace this coming Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association June Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Saturday, June 14, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

According to the club's secretary Lorraina Babauta, showtime is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(Mark Rabago)***

BOG

From Page 28

Camacho 3-point play moments later extended that to four.

A triple by Ed Diaz would put Autonomous within a point of DCCA's lead, 92-93, but split free throws by Peter Camacho and Joey Dela Cruz—sandwiched by a lone basket by Diaz—sealed the win for DCCA.

Abong Camacho led the DCCA comeback with 29 points, while brother Peter and Ranagamar wound up with 25 and 24, respectively.

Bull-strong Steve Rasa led Autonomous in the frustrating loss with a game-high 34, while younger brother, Ponce, and Tim Wesley chipped in 18 and 14. It was the first loss in three outings for Autonomous.

In the second game, Bank of Guam and Department of Corrections matched each other shot for shot the entire 40 minutes before the Bankers nosed out the prison guards in the final moments for the two-point win.

BoG led 18-13 and 33-32 in the first two quarters but DOC forged a 55-55 tie at the end of three quarters.

Both teams continued to battle tooth and nail in the payoff period and a Jeff Quitigua bucket put DOC ahead 91-90.

Lady Luck, however, smiled at BoG in the game's final seven seconds as forward James Lee found himself all alone on the right side of the 3-point arc and let loose what proved to be the game-winning score. He then preserved his heroics when he stole the ensuing DOC inbounds pass.

Randy Pelisamen led the way for BoG with 31 points, while James Villacrusis and Gus Palacios added 18 and 17 for the now 3-1 bankers.

Quitigua and Luis Iguel topscored for DOC with 20 points apiece. The loss was the first in four outings for the team.

First Game

DCCA 95 – A. Camacho 29, P. Camacho 25, Rangamar 24, Van Buren 9, Dela Cruz 6, Sablan 4.

Autonomous 94 – S. Rasa 34, P. Rasa 18, Wesley 14, Coldeen 11, Diaz 11, Camacho 4, Aaron 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 40-48, 59-79, 95-94.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula.

Second Game

BoG 93 – Pelisamen 31, Villacrusis 18, G. Palacios 17, D. Palacios 12, Taisacan 8, Lee 5, Diaz 2.

DOC 91 – Iguel 20, Quitugua 20, Blas 13, Iramk 11, Mendiola 8, Santos 6, Mendez 4, Kwon 4, Guerrero 3, Itibus 2,

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 33-32, 55-55, 93-91.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Gilbert Espinosa.

LAMARC

From Page 28

ed a pitching performance to be remembered when they shut out Tinian, 11-0, in the finals.

But what's amazing was all the hits by Tinian were of the unearned variety with the last one committed by Nakamura when he failed to catch Elmo Hoffschneider's shallow pop-out to first base.

The error aside, Nakamura and Iguel were simply building on their success from the regular season of the Saipan Junior League.

Iguel, who played for Ol'Aces, finished with a 3.40 ERA, including 25 strikeouts, on top of a .419 batting average.

Nakamura, for his part, was simply outstanding on the mound for the runner-up Jets last season, finishing with a 2.42 earned run average, which was tops in the Junior League. He also did damage with his swing as proven by his .363 batting average.

"Lamarc and Harry pitched really well. We finally got our shutout. Tinian got on base but all were unearned so they pitched well. All the boys played as a team. This is what it's all about," said Sablan after the championship game.

Aside from his two aces, Sablan also commended the hitting of Peter Tenorio, especially during the beginning of the game when his boys struggled.

Sablan and company now set their sights for the 2008 Asia-Pacific Junior Regional Tournament set from June 27 to July 2 here on Saipan.

"We have to work harder for the Asia-Pacific Region since the competition will be more stiff. We will be playing more games. Teams will be here so our training will be more intense from now until then," he said.

They will have their hands full as the respective champions of Guam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong will challenge them in the competition.

HUSTLERS

From Page 28

owner of Hustlers' home bar, Krystal Perfect Spot.

Asked what makes the team so successful the past three seasons, Soriano said the players always make it a point to come on time every game. Aside from that, he said team chemistry is great because all of them are friends.

Soriano said Hustlers would remain intact next season to defend its championship for a fourth time, despite a clamor for them to disband because Hustlers is made up of the island's top cue artists.

For the record, Hustlers won 78.1 percent of their matches last season after compiling an 82-23 win-loss mark in 105 total games.

A far second was Jonny's Destroyers after it went 71-34 for a winning percentage of 67.6. Third place went to Porky's Extremists and Wild Wild West with both teams finishing with identical 69-36 records.

Porky's Wild Hogs and Coral Reef Shark Attack completed the Top 6 with their 63-43 marks.

USSP Fotten Palau (60-45), Len's 5 Bad Boyz (55-50), Mr. Wonderful Shooters (51-54), Godfathers Magas (48-57), Perfect Spotter (47-58), USSP Wat-Ever (45-60), Wild Bill's Snipers (40-65), Coral Reef Barracuda (29-76), Len's 5 Amigos (29-76), and VFW Warriors (19-86) make up the rest of teams in the 2008 winter/spring season of the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

In the Budweiser Cup, Hustlers capped their season with a 4-2 win over upset-conscous Godfather's Magas.

The sportsmanship award, meanwhile, was handed to VFW Warriors with Wild Bill's Nong Detdon taking home the sponsor's plaque.

Ginebra sans Caguioa drubs Williams-less Realtors

MANILA, Philippines—A Sta. Lucia team minus top gun Kelly Williams proved to be an easy prey for Barangay Ginebra.

The Kings pounded and pummeled the Williams-less Realtors, again gaining ground on the pacesetters with a 112-104 victory Friday night in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Though also missing a key player in the injured Mark Caguioa, the Kings had a relatively easy time posting their fourth win in their last five games.

The final count didn't show the true reflection of the game since the Kings lowered down their guard after storming to a 26-point lead in the third quarter.

Torrid shooting and no-nonsense defense did it for the Kings as they avenged their 97-101 defeat to the Realtors in their previous match and jacked up their overall win-loss record to 5-8 – now two full games clear of Welcoat's 3-10.

"Everything fell into place for us while Sta. Lucia struggled minus Kelly Williams," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

"Good win and hopefully we'll be able to make another run because we have a lot of catching up to do," Uichico added.

Three Kings in Chris Alexander, Jayjay Helterbrand and Ronald Tubid scored personal conference highs to lead the Ginebra juggernaut.

Alexander finished with 35 points and 25 rebounds. Helterbrand fired 31 points and Tubid rattled in 17.

Ginebra 112 – Alexander 35, Helterbrand 31, Tubid 17, Valenzuela 9, Crisano 6, Menk 5, Pacana 4, Salvacion 3, Artadi 2, Mamaril 0.

Sta. Lucia 104 – Espino 28, Omolon 19, Daa 15, Yeo 10, Miranda 8, Mendoza 7, Brown 6, Aquino 6, Reyes 5, Mamaclay 0, Coronel 0, Gonzales 0.

Quarterscores: 29-17, 55-37, 83-58, 112-104. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

ROCK STEADY

From Page 28

without much damage despite beaning Kim and seeing Kim Jae Young advance to second on an error by Byron Kaipat.

Rock Steady finally scored when Manny Sablan crossed home plate on a miscue by Komoro's right-fielder Han Jin Kwan.

Komoro would retaliate in the third when Kim Hyung Joo brought in Cho Jun Ju on a single to make it 1-1. That score would stay the same as both starting pitchers buckled down to work until Rock Steady's batters finally figured out Komoro's ace in the eighth.

The loss was the eighth in 12 games for Komoro.

Manny Sablan went 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI for Rock Steady. Manibusan, Pangelinan, and Celis also drove in a run each in the win. Starting pitcher Kim went 1-for 4 for Komoro.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Boston	40	26	.606	–
Tampa Bay	38	26	.594	1
Toronto	33	33	.500	7
New York	32	32	.500	7
Baltimore	31	31	.500	7

Central Division

Chicago	37	26	.587	–
Minnesota	31	33	.484	6 1/2
Cleveland	29	35	.453	8 1/2
Detroit	26	37	.413	11
Kansas City	25	39	.391	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	39	26	.600	–
Oakland	34	29	.540	4
Texas	32	33	.492	7
Seattle	23	41	.359	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	26	.600	–
Florida	34	29	.540	4
Atlanta	32	32	.500	6 1/2
New York	30	32	.484	7 1/2
Washington	25	40	.385	14

Central Division

Chicago	40	24	.625	–
St. Louis	38	27	.585	2 1/2
Milwaukee	33	30	.524	6 1/2
Houston	32	32	.500	8
Pittsburgh	31	33	.484	9
Cincinnati	31	34	.477	9 1/2

West Division

Arizona	34	30	.531	–
Los Angeles	30	33	.476	3 1/2
San Francisco	29	35	.453	5
San Diego	28	37	.431	6 1/2
Colorado	24	39	.381	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 5, Arizona 3
Cincinnati 9, Florida 4
San Francisco 3, Washington 2
Kansas City 3, N.Y. Yankees 2
Chicago White Sox 7, Minnesota 5
Cleveland 8, Detroit 2
Seattle 3, Toronto 2, 10 innings
Tampa Bay 13, L.A. Angels 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

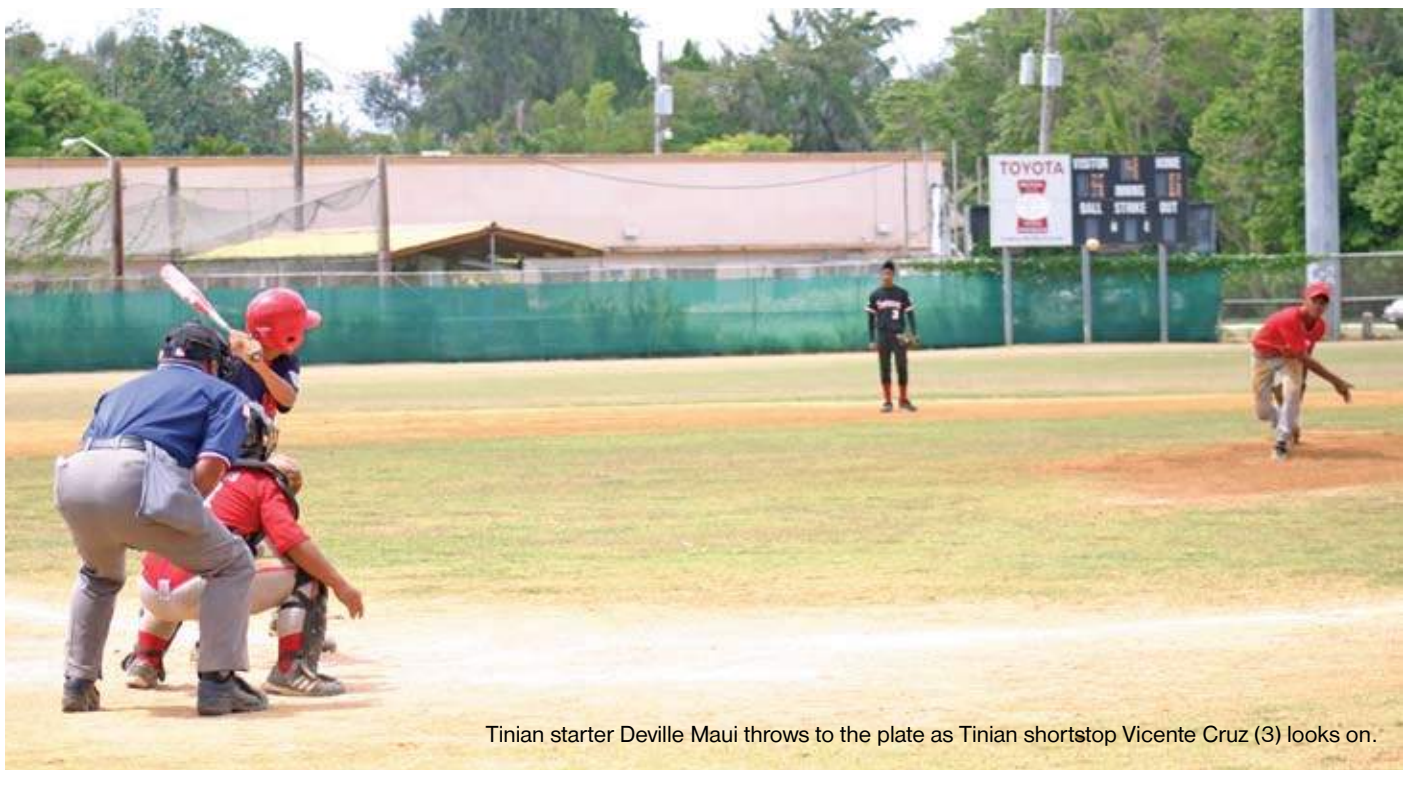
Rock Steady	11	0
Ford Rangers	8	3
Tanapag Falcons	6	4
San Roque D9ers	5	4
Koreans Dreams	6	5
Komoro	4	8
Team Kabur	2	10
O'Conner Tigers	1	9

Govt Basketball Standings

PTI	1	0
DCCA	3	1
BOG	3	1
DOC	3	1
Autonomous	2	1
Tinian	2	1
NMC	1	1
Aguaguat	1	1
CPA	0	1
DPS	0	2
DPW	0	3
Legislature	0	3

Tinian Junior All-Stars

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO



Tinian starter Deville Maui throws to the plate as Tinian shortstop Vicente Cruz (3) looks on.

The Tinian Junior All-Stars take their place on the field during the opening of the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament last Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Tinian Junior All-Stars pose with Saipan Little League Baseball Association officials at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field following their championship game against Saipan in the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament last Sunday. Tinian was shut out by Saipan, 0-10, in the mercy-rule shortened title game.

Tinian netter-turned-baseball player Benjie Decena straddles between second and third as he attempts to steal a base.

Tinian starter Deville Maui throws one of his heaters from the mound in the championship game against Tinian. Maui shut out the normally explosive Saipan lineup in the first inning.

Tinian pitcher Phil Maui hits a single against Saipan's Lamarc Iguel in the championship game last Sunday.

Elmo Hoffchneider reached first base when Saipan reliever Harry Nakamura bobbled his shallow pop-up in the fifth inning of their championship game Sunday.

Tinian first baseman Derek Hofschneider towers over Saipan catcher Richard Dela Cruz in Sunday's title game.

Tinian's Jamie Omengkar was the lone rose among the thorns in the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament held over the weekend.

Tinian pitcher J.R. Santos comes up to bat against Saipan's Ricardo Dela Cruz in the first game Saturday.

Suns introduce new head coach Terry Porter

It didn't take Terry Porter long to understand the expectations facing him as he takes over the Phoenix Suns.

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Swisher homers from both sides, White Sox beat Twins for sweep

Switch-hitter Nick Swisher homered from both sides of the plate and the Chicago White Sox completed a dominant four-game sweep, beating the Minnesota Twins 7-5 in the American League on Monday. 24

BoG, DCCA slip past opponents

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bank of Guam and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs walked the tightrope before escaping with victories in the continuation of the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, DCCA rallied from 21 points down to nip an Autonomous team made up of players from last year's champion Office of Public Auditor, 95-94; while Bank of Guam outlasted Department of Corrections after a tightly fought game, 93-91, in the nightcap.

DCCA had to earn its third win in four starts against Autonomous.

After taking a candlestick 21-20 lead in the first 10 minutes of the contest, the team saw it trail 40-48 at halftime before Autonomous went on a 31-19 tear in the third to enter the fourth and final quarter ahead, 79-59.

DCCA, however, refused to give up and started the fourth quarter with triples from ageless wonder Elias Rangamar and strong inside forays by lefty center Abong Camacho.

Peter Camacho also got into the act, while the entire team stopped Autonomous dead on its tracks with a stifling defense.

With a little over two minutes to go, a Rangamar fastbreak gave DCCA its first taste of the lead in a long while, 90-89. An Abong

See BOG on Page 26

Department of Corrections' Jeff Quitugua foils a baseline attempt by Bank of Guam's James Villacrusis in their 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League game Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

Rock Steady remains perfect with 5-run 8th

MARK RABAGO
Rock Steady's Dane Lizama goes to bat against Komoro's Kim Hyung Joo in their 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League game Monday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rock Steady flirted with disaster before erupting for five runs in the bottom of the eighth to beat Komoro, 6-1, and remained perfect in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League last Monday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

After Rock Steady's John Mafnas and Komoro's Kim Hyung Joo combined to pitch a beauty in the game's first seven and a half innings, the league leader's batters finally awoke and pummeled Kim in the penultimate inning.

It started when Toni Celis drove in Tyrone Omar on a sacrifice fly. Martin Pangelinan then raced home on a two-bagger by Manny Sablan.

Rock Steady's catcher then reached home on another double, this time by Roy Celis, who shortly thereafter was also brought in by Ed Manibusan.

Oliver Secharmidal then drove in the final RBI of the game when he scored Manibusan on a single.

Mafnas' reliever put the finishing touches in Rock Steady's Johnny-come-lately win when he struck out Kim Su Lee, Jung Hoon Tae, and Hong in quick succession in the top of the ninth inning.

This after surrendering a leadoff double to Kim Hyung Joo, who wound up stranded in third base.

Kim Hyung Joo started like a house on fire from the mound, retiring Omar, Dane Lizama, and Celis 1-2-3 in the very first inning.

Mafnas matched Kim's power and control by ending the first also

See ROCK STEADY on Page 26

Hustlers feted in SBA banquet

MARK RABAGO
From left, Krystal SaipanCell Hustlers players Ryan Sanciangco, Senen Pangilinan, Jerry Soriano, Rowell Mariano, Joey Lucido, and Erwin Gomez pose with SaipanCell Communication's James Lee, center, on stage after receiving their championship trophies during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Krystal SaipanCell Hustlers went home with the most hardware during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

Hustlers Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Rowell Mariano, Joey Lucido, Erwin Gomez, John Ricafort, and Ryan Sanciangco each received their individual trophies, while main sponsor SaipanCell Communications, represented by James Lee, was handed the championship trophy.

Aside from the championship of the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League, which was its third straight, the Hustlers also won the SBA Budweiser Cup in back-to-back seasons.

To top it all off, Hustlers newcomer Gomez was named MVP after leading the league with 14 victories.

Soriano, who served as Hustlers captain, said he would like to thank SaipanCell Communications for once again supporting the team this season despite the challenging economic times. He also extended his gratitude to Serge Tibudan,

See HUSTLERS on Page 26

Lamarc, Harry finally deliver shutout

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With his hitters struggling early against Tinian starter Deville Maui, it was fortunate that Saipan Junior All-Stars manager Vinnie Sablan had an ace of his own in the person of Lamarc Iguel in the championship game of the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament last Sunday.

And when Saipan was looking to notch its third consecutive mercy rule-shortened game, Sablan was lucky he could count on reliever Harry Nakamura to close the deal at the sun-baked grounds of the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Sablan and his boys were also looking to finally score a shutout against their southern neighbors after coming within a Benjie Decena RBI in their 17-1 victory in the first game Saturday.

Iguel and Nakamura—starters for their respective teams in the Saipan Junior League—provid-

See LAMARC on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Junior All-Stars Lamarc Iguel, left, and Harry Nakamura flash the No. 1 sign after the two pitchers combined to shut out Tinian, 11-0, in the championship game of the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.